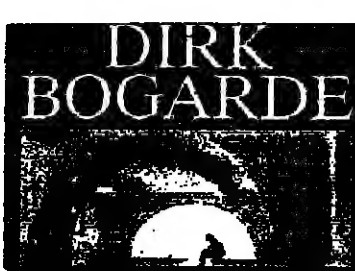


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Libby Purves

Women who give up a career for marriage deserve their half of a pension, p12



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THE TIMES



No. 65,197

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22 1995

College heads quit Oxford and Cambridge club



Lord Jenkins: the most senior officer to sign

By BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE heads of Oxford and Cambridge colleges announced yesterday their mass resignation from the London club that bears their name in protest at what they said was its offensive treatment of women.

All but one of the 31 Cambridge and three of the 42 Oxford college principals signed a statement publicly dissociating themselves from the United Oxford and Cambridge University Club, which was founded in 1817, over its refusal to move towards granting full membership to women. All the signatories who were members, honorary members

or lady associate members either had already resigned or would now do so, they said.

The protest by many of Britain's most eminent academics and public figures was led by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Chancellor of Oxford and former Social Democrat leader. Dr Peter North, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, and Professor Sir David Williams, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge. Other signatories indicating their "distaste for the club's discriminatory policies" include Sir Crispin Tickell, the former diplomat and Warden of Green College, Oxford, and Lord Dahrendorf, the social scientist and Warden of St Antony's, Oxford. The protest re-

flects a final loss of patience with the resistance to change shown by the old guard of London's clubland over the past two years. Women are forbidden full membership and use of the library and members' bar. David Butler, the political scientist, resigned the row between senior academics and the Pall Mall club last month by announcing his resignation in *The Times*.

Those who did not take up the opportunity to sign the statement include: Lord St John of Fawsley, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge; Lord Windlesham, Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford; Professor John Barron, Master of St Peter's College, Oxford; and Cather-

ine Hughes, Principal of Somerville College, Oxford. The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of Cambridge, was kept informed but was not asked to sign.

Dr North said the universities could not ignore the affairs of a club that displayed their coats of arms and drew virtually all members from their graduates. He said the universities were likely to press the club to change its name: "It may seem inappropriate for a club to bear the names of two universities which have publicly dissociated themselves from it."

Professor Barron said that although he supported full membership rights for women, he believed it

was better to fight from within the club. He said: "I can see why some people feel they have come to the end of the road, but I feel there is a little further to travel yet."

Lord St John of Fawsley said that he had not signed the statement because he believed it was more effective to seek change from within. He said: "The heads of colleges ought to move to take away the club's coat of arms and its name. That is the weapon to use." The peer, a member of White's, Pratt's and the Garrick, added: "I have never been a member of the Oxford and Cambridge. It is not the sort of club I want to be a member of."

Yesterday's statement expresses

frustration at the stalemate since 49 per cent of the club's membership voted for change in a ballot in September 1993, just short of the margin required for reform by its constitution. It says: "The fact that no changes have been achieved has caused great disquiet within both universities and among their graduates here and overseas. The present situation perpetuates a discrimination widely regarded in both universities as offensive, within an institution which appears to many to be closely linked with the two universities."

List of dissenters, page 2
Diary, page 18

Declaration of war, says Paisley

Major urges Ulster to seize chance

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN MAJOR yesterday delivered a passionate plea to the people of Northern Ireland against allowing the chance of a permanent peace in the Province to slip away.

As he prepared to fly to Belfast for today's launch of the London-Dublin proposals, the Prime Minister emphasised his readiness to consider alternative plans put forward by the Unionist parties. His mind was open about the "right mechanism" for achieving peace.

He told the Commons his objective was to ensure that the ceasefire was able to be "turned into a permanent peace for the well-being of all the people of Northern Ireland."

Mr Major added: "What I am determined is that we do seek to move forward, to try to ensure that the chance that is in our hands — we may not be able to hold it — should not slip away because we are not prepared to examine the matter, to talk about the matter, to consider it and reach the conclusions that you wish to see reached."

Mr Major's appeal came as the Ulster Unionists led by James Molyneux published their own plans for the future of the province, strongly opposing the expected contents of the framework document while indicating that they would not boycott the talks process if their proposals were also considered.

But the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists reit-

ated their implacable opposition to participation in the framework document was on the table. After 80 minutes of talks with Mr Major, Dr Paisley described the plans as "a declaration of war on the Union and on the Unionist people". He said: "My worst fears are realised... the news for the people of Northern Ireland is of the worst. There's only one line and one proposition in the document. That is the Dublin line and the Republican agenda."

Later Mr Major and John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, dined at Hillsborough

plans could lead to "another 10 years of uncertainty and inevitable violence". They could become "a major part of the problem instead of a basis for solution."

Downing Street renewed its insistence that the framework document was not a blueprint for a political solution, and said that other proposals could still be taken into account. "The proposals that we will publish are not going to be carved in tablets of stone," an official said. "They are to be used as the basis for discussion and negotiation. We do not put them forward to the exclusion of all other ideas."

After ministers had briefed Tory MPs, Andrew Hunter, chairman of the Tory backbench Northern Ireland committee, tried to dispel Unionist fears, saying: "I note, I understand, I respect their sensitivities. I believe that when the dust settles they will find this framework document is not as bad as they think it's going to be, and that document and their own ideas do form the basis for a way forward to discuss."

John Hume, the SDLP leader, said: "What is being produced tomorrow is a discussion document. A discussion document is for discussion."

Mr Bruton tried to allay Unionist fears that the document amounted to a nationalist agenda when he told his MPs that it would give the people of Northern Ireland a chance to shape their own future. Neither tradition need fear its contents. It will undoubtedly challenge the two traditions on this island. But it will do so in an even-handed way."

Mr Bruton said that the document was not being imposed as a blueprint. "Its purpose is to facilitate, not pre-empt dialogue. At the end of the day, the people of this island, north and south, will have the final say."

Representatives of loyalist paramilitaries and Sinn Féin said they would study the document before responding.

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Castle. This morning they will launch the 23-page joint document laying down the framework for a constitutional settlement. Then Mr Major will hold a press conference launching the proposals for the internal government of Northern Ireland, which include a legislative Assembly.

Ministers are braced for suspicion, distrust and outright opposition, particularly from the Protestant community. One Cabinet minister said that the Government was "walking a high wire". The expectation is that it may be two to three months before the Government can say whether the parties are ready for round-table talks about the next phase of the process. But there is cautious optimism that the Ulster Unionists will become involved.

The "triple lock" safeguards built into the process, the reported readiness of the Irish Government not to press its territorial claim and the fact that there has already been six months of peace are felt by ministers to give the present peace effort a chance.

The Unionist party document said that the framework



Flt Lt Jo Salter pictured at Lossiemouth yesterday in front of a Tornado bomber

No fear of flying for RAF's first woman bomber pilot

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE RAF's first woman Tornado bomber pilot introduced herself to the media yesterday by saying that she never feels fear.

Flight Lieutenant Jo Salter, 26, a member of the 617 "Dambusters" Squadron at Lossiemouth, Scotland, has cost the RAF £3 million to train as a fast jet pilot, the same as her male counterparts.

Yesterday, Flt Lt Salter, who comes from Bournemouth, rejected suggestions that

frontline Servicewomen lacked aggression. "I never feel fear," she said. "The Air Force is an armed force and you have to expect to go into combat."

She said that even if she married and had children, she would not give up her career. "I would like to have children one day and in the Air Force you can have maternity leave, but I would hate to give up my career," she said, as the RAF formally presented its first female bomber pilot.

Flt Lt Salter underwent rigorous training to bring her up

to standard and has a permanent commission which will last to the age of 38. After that, she hopes to become a weapons instructor.

She said she had always loved flying, but taking control of a high-technology war machine was not even a flight of fancy as a schoolgirl because the opportunity never existed. It was only in 1991 that Ministers decided to allow women to become combat pilots. Now 28 are undergoing training.

Solo pioneer, page 7

Manager of Arsenal sacked over cash report

By PETER BALL

ARSENAL yesterday dismissed their manager, George Graham two days before a Premier League commission investigating allegations of irregular payments reports.

Graham had been accused of receiving £285,000 from Rune Hauge, the Norwegian agent involved in the transfer of John Jensen, the Danish international. His solicitors said that he dismissed the allegations as "nonsense" and demanded a full FA inquiry.

Arsenal's response, ending Graham's eight years as manager, was almost inevitable. The statement said: "The board have concluded that Mr Graham did not act in the best interests of the club. The board have therefore terminated Mr Graham's contract."

Graham has been the most successful Arsenal manager since the war, winning two championships, the FA Cup, the League Cup and the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Eric Cantona, the Manchester United footballer, was charged yesterday by police with common assault on a spectator at Crystal Palace during a match last month.

Graham sacked, page 48

NatWest lifts its profits to £1.59bn

National Westminster Bank yesterday announced a 61 per cent increase in 1994 pre-tax profits, to £1.59 billion after bad debts halved to £616 million. They exceeded City expectations, as did the rise in annual dividend, up 17 per cent to 21.6p.

Derek Wallis, the chief executive, said that the bank is looking for acquisitions to fill in perceived weaknesses in its investment banking and Coutts private banking operations. Pages 23, 27

Skier survived on Mars and snow

Andrew Wilson, 44, from Glasgow, a cross-country skier feared frozen to death after three nights lost in a blizzard in the Grampians, amazed rescuers when he walked to safety. He survived on one Mars bar and snow and sheltered in his bivouac bag in a snow hole as temperatures fell to minus 35C. Page 3

Euro-tank rolls in

Britain wants to collaborate with France and Germany in designing and building a new generation of armoured vehicles for Europe's armies. The first link could centre on a £3.5bn programme for 7,000 personnel carriers and reconnaissance vehicles. Page 25

Bridge and chess

The bridge and chess columns have moved to the second section. Read Robert Sheehan and Raymond Keene today on page 43.

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Unilever counts £57m cost of a power play

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch soap giant, admitted yesterday that its Persil Power washing powder had rotted more than just a few shirts. The product also made a £57 million hole in the group's finances last summer, after the company was forced to withdraw and reformulate it.

Last June Unilever had to destroy tons of the original-formula powder, which it now acknowledges damaged clothes. The group included the cost of its withdrawal in the £2.3 billion profit figures for 1994 published yesterday: the firm had spent more than £300 million developing the powder.

Other expenses included an estimated



£500,000 on advertising its telephone "Care Line", which cost several hundred thousand pounds to run. The helpline was set up to reassure customers and to offer compensation for any clothes they could prove had been damaged by the powder.

It was all meant to be so different. Persil Power was launched last spring throughout Europe on a wave of hype, with Unilever claiming it contained a unique manganese-based accelerator which was more effective in removing even "stubborn" stains.

Within weeks, Procter & Gamble, its arch rival and manufacturer of Ariel, declared that Persil Power caused fabric damage. Unilever denied the claims and launched writs for defamation. But P&G responded with a campaign of unprecedented ferocity against the product, commissioning reports from consumer associations and placing advertisements in national newspapers. At times the "soap wars" degenerated into farce, with

P&G branding frayed and washed-out boxer shorts at press conferences.

The plan proved successful. By the summer Unilever, in an attempt to defend its 85-year-old brand name, changed the formula of Persil Power and reduced the manganese content by 80 per cent.

It now admits it made a serious mistake in launching a product with a defect it had not detected. It has cost the company, and its shareholders, millions and damaged its image. Unilever's share of the European detergent market is no better than a year ago, and it still trails P&G.

Tempus, page 28

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CENTRE OF LONDON TO THE CENTRE OF PARIS. DIRECT.

Westminster chortles over wizard ways to curb unruly Cabinet

At education Questions, the air was black with the soot of flying pots thrown from glass houses by people so blinded by the beams in their own eyes that they were casting out kettles in place of motes. To put it another way, MPs were discussing the need for physical fitness, good English and discipline. In others.

Mercifully, a thin minister had chosen to answer the question about physical exercise. Mercilessly, Labour managers had selected a fat spokesman to question her.

In the circumstances, Education Secretary Gillian Shephard (C, thin) was kind to Peter Kilfoyle (Lab, fat) when he complained about the loss of sports fields. "One hundred yards sprint!" choried Tory tubbies at the protesting Kilfoyle. "I was once a PE teacher," he spluttered.

Cyril Townsend (C, thin) complained that we were "a nation contentedly unfit". The wheezes and rasps of MPs eager to dispute this, if they could only find breath, filled the Chamber. Chester's (and television's, radio's, publishing's and after-dinner's) Gyles Brandreth, reminding us that "English is the richest and most versatile of the living languages" (and he the most versatile and richest of its living practitioners) urged the nation to be more articulate.

Were it so, the nation might urge Mr Brandreth to be less voluble. "People," he went on, "are judged by whether they can express themselves clearly." Expressing herself very clearly indeed, Glenda Jackson (Lab, articulate) told Tories to stop pontificating and pay for better teaching. Eric Forth, a junior education minister, boasted about his department's anti-bullying pack for schools. If Mr Forth, a Scot of the brutal tendency and more easily envisaged behind the bicycle sheds than the dispatch box, does not have L-O-V-E tattooed on one set of knuckles and H-A-T-E

on the other, it must be because he is saving the space for something ruder. Still, Forth had his wits about him. He had cannily anticipated that a question about the need for "firm discipline" in schools would elicit sniggers from Labour's David Blunkett about Major's disciplinary problems with a class of only 22: his Cabinet. To rueful cheers from Tory backbenchers who are fed up with their own prefects' squabbles, Forth read out a five-point plan for dealing with troublemakers: detention; interruption of lunch; privileges such as trips cancelled; written work assigned; a useful task to be carried out. He hoped that anyone who had to impose discipline would find his list "helpful".

Got that, PM? Who knows with Kenneth Clarke's lunches curtailed, Aitken barred from trips abroad. Heseltine assigned written work, Redwood consigned to a useful task (but what?) and Portillo in detention. Cabinet Government might become possible again.

All in all it was a good day for Mr Forth. Recommended to adopt US educational methods in Britain, he replied: "I yield to none in my affection for all things American, not least Mrs Forth." Next came PM's Questions. Ireland is bringing out the best in John Major. When the likeable Sir James Kilfedder (UPUP, Down N)

sounded more than ritually upset to have been (as he thought) excluded from consultations. Major avoided any temptation to bridge or snap and replied generously. Challenged on the framework document by Ken Maginnis (UUP, Fermanagh & S Tyrone), the PM put down his notes and, hoping to convince Maginnis, seemed for a moment to rise right above the habitual rancour. He spoke with real passion. Sincerity in the Commons is so rare it's almost shocking.

'Government paying lip service to needs of middle-aged women'

Pension reform not good enough say divorced wives

By ANNE ASHWORTH

A GOVERNMENT proposal to ensure fairer pension rights for divorced women has been greeted with criticism from peers, ex-wives' groups and lawyers. They say the proposed changes do not go far enough.

Under the current arrangements, couples who divorce lose the automatic right to share each other's pensions, even though the amounts invested in pensions may exceed the value of other household assets, including the family home.

During the Lords committee stage of the Pensions Bill on Monday, Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, the Social Security minister, announced that the Government was looking at ways to amend the Matrimonial Causes Act. He said that the courts would have to place "greater emphasis on the need for pension rights when considering financial provision on divorce".

But the move was seen as an attempt to divert attention from more radical solutions. Baroness Young had put forward an amendment to the

Bill requiring pensions to be divided on divorce. Among those dissatisfied with the Government's action are Sally Quin, the spokeswoman for Fairshares, a group that campaigns for pensions justice for the divorced.

She said yesterday: "The Government is purely paying lip service to the problem of middle-aged wives who are deprived of a share in their husband's pension when they divorce. We are not happy and intend to keep on fighting but I am pleased to see that the Government has finally decided to recognise the problem."

Mrs Quin, 50, is a typical case for better pensions treatment. Her husband retired early in 1991 after their judicial separation. During their marriage, she had been employed in a series of part-time jobs which offered no pension. As she has no right to a share of her husband's pension, she and her 17-year-old daughter live on income support.

Her organisation is part of an increasingly vociferous lobby. There is considerable un-

ease over middle-aged women facing on divorce. Among those dissatisfied with the Government's action are Sally Quin, the spokeswoman for Fairshares, a group that campaigns for pensions justice for the divorced.

The plight of the middle-aged divorced wife will be kept in the spotlight by the case of Douglas and Anne Brooks, which goes before the Lords in early April. The couple split six years ago after 12 years of marriage.

Although the Court of Appeal ruled last year that Mrs Brooks was entitled to a share of her husband's estimated £500,000 pension, Mr Brooks is contesting that decision. Mrs Brooks, 56, feels that she earned a portion of the pension for running the home.

The occupational pensions industry and the insurance companies are little moved by the debate. However, the National Association of Pension Funds, which represents company pension schemes, said that if pensions were to be split, administrative costs to the pension scheme would have to be met by the couple rather than the scheme.

Libby Purves, page 16
Leading article, page 19



Anne Brooks: wants share of £500,000 pension

Rebels ponder reform after Lords victory



Baroness Young: led the Tory rebellion

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

PEERS celebrated the news yesterday that their rebellion had forced the Government to find ways to ensure that men shared their pensions with their former wives when they divorced.

Tories who joined opposition parties in the Lords on Monday night to force the Government into promising concessions said that they would be going through the Pensions Bill carefully to look for any more inequalities.

Baroness Young, the former Leader of the Lords who led the Tory rebellion, said: "Divorce courts in England and Wales are not obliged to take a husband's pension rights into account when making divorce settlements. This means courts can short-change women who have supported their husbands and sacrificed their own careers to bring up children. They are left reliant on benefits when they retire while the man has a fat pension."

Peers do not want the changes to be retrospective

because such an arrangement caused so many problems for the Child Support Agency, but they cannot agree on how the law should be amended. Some want a former wife to receive financial or property benefits in lieu of the pension, as occurs in Scotland. Others want the pension split at the time of divorce, a move that neither the Government nor pensions companies want.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter, a former Conservative pensions minister, said: "There is the feeling in the Lords that we must not funk the issue. The

present law is unfair and however difficult it is to change it must be addressed." He added, however, that provisions should not be pushed too far. "I am not sure that a pension not yet put into payment should be split because it would just be so hard to do."

Pressure groups for divorced women said the courts must have the power to split the pension immediately. Mike Brown, of the National Association of Pension Funds, said: "It is certainly feasible to split a pension."

Governors urged by heads to go into the red

By BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HEAD teachers raised the stakes in the revolt over education spending yesterday and urged schools to go into the red rather than axe teachers' jobs.

The National Association of Head Teachers advised governors to unite and delay any decisions about reducing staffing or increasing class sizes to make their budgets balance in the new financial year. Instead, schools should protect the quality of education and increase the pressure on ministers to find extra cash.

The advice could lead to local education authorities taking control of schools where governors try to set illegal deficit budgets. Alternatively, the union says that authorities might respond by simply reminding governors that any deficit at the end of the year would be deducted from the following year's budget.

The strategy is designed to catch the Government off balance by delaying confrontation over threatened teacher redundancies until nearer to the next general election. It rejects more dramatic, immediate alternatives such as the introduction of a four-day week for schools or mass resignations by governors.

David Hart, the union's general secretary, said that ministers would be more vulnerable to campaigns by parents and governors early next year when schools which planned to go into the red started to run out of money.

He said the Government's spending squeeze and its refusal to fund the 2.7 per cent increase in teachers' pay meant the requirement that governors set a balanced budget was "totally incompatible" with their statutory responsibility to deliver the national curriculum. He acknowledged that the courts might be required to intervene.

Mr Hart said it was time for parents and teachers to challenge the assumption that governors must not overspend when faced by unrealistic spending constraints established by an unlistening Government. He said the union's strategy was a gamble.

Walter Ulrich, officer for the National Association of Governors and Managers, said that it was pointless for head teachers to ask governors to plan deficit budgets that would risk intervention by local authorities. He said: "This would only make things worse because authorities would set harsher budgets by formula which were not so well tailored to individual schools."

480 to sue MoD over Gulf War syndrome

More than 480 alleged sufferers of Gulf War syndrome or "desert fever" have formally informed the Ministry of Defence that they intend to sue for compensation. In a Commons written reply yesterday, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, said that the MoD had received "notification of 483 potential claims in respect of ill health as a result of service in the Gulf War".

The MoD denies the existence of the syndrome. "Our investigations to date have found no medical or scientific evidence of a Gulf War syndrome, or any medical condition peculiar to service in the Gulf," Mr Soames said.

Rubbish removed

BBC Radio 3 admitted last night that it had cut the heckling from Monday's broadcast of *The Rose Lake*, by Sir Michael Tippett, because it did not want to spoil the composer's birthday. The shouts of "Rubbish!" and "Visions of Hell!" were removed after the recording at the Barbican, London, on Sunday night.

Derry detention charge

A Sinn Féin member of Derry City Council, held for questioning in an arrest operation in nationalist areas of Londonderry on Monday, is to appear in court in Belfast today. Mary Nellis is charged with unlawful imprisonment of a woman. Two men face the same charge and an additional charge of intimidation.

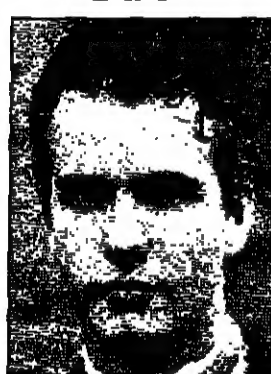
Harrods acts over writ

Harrods asked the High Court yesterday to set aside a writ issued by Sir Alford Housman-Boswall, 47, principal of The Harrodian School, who sent his bailiffs into the store to recover £123,000 legal bill. Master Winegarten of the Chancery Division agreed to stay the writ until a hearing of all parties next Monday.

£15,000 RAF payout

An RAF medical assistant who claimed she was wrongfully sacked for being pregnant has won £15,000 damages from the Ministry of Defence. Victoria Edwards, of Nottingham, was dismissed even though the MoD had changed its policy on maternity leave to fall in line with European law.

Guppy wins legal aid



Two High Court judges yesterday ruled that Darius Guppy, left, serving five years for fraud, was entitled to legal aid to fight proceedings that could increase his sentence by three years. Magistrates in Redbridge, London, had refused Guppy, 30, access to public funds after he failed to pay £22,000 compensation, and gave notice of their intention to start enforcement proceedings.

Nuclear waste decision

The Government has opted for "dry stores" on land for spent nuclear fuel, John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, said yesterday. The waste has previously been disposed of at sea. The siting of the stores will be left for the operators of nuclear power stations to decide, Mr Gummer said in a Commons reply. Labour condemned the decision.

BT loses Dorset village

The Dorset village of Studland has ceased to exist, according to British Telecom. All 500 inhabitants with 211 residential and 39 business telephone lines have been omitted from this year's Bournemouth area telephone directory. British Telecom regretted the error but said printing a new directory was not feasible.

OXFORD: Roy Jenkins, Chancellor, University of Oxford; Peter North, Vice-Chancellor, Principal of Jesus College; John Albert, Master of University College; Eric Anderson, Rector of Lincoln College; A.B. Atkinson, Warden of Nuffield College; Clark Brundin, President of Templeton College.

JOHN BURG, President of Trinity College; Marilyn Butler, Rector of Exeter College; Averil Cameron, Warden of Keble College; Bryan Cartledge, Principal of Lincoln College; Ralf Dahrendorf, Warden of St Antony's College; Ruth Deech, Principal of St Anne's College; John Drury, Dean of Christ Church; Paul Fiddes, Principal of Regent's Park College; John Fleming, Warden of Wadham College; Justin Gosling, Principal of St Edmund Hall;

WILLIAM HAYES, President of St John's College; Colin Lucas, Master of Balliol College; Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith, Principal of St Hilda's College; Harvey McGregor, Warden of New College; Geoffrey Marshall, Provost of The Queen's College.

JOSEPH MANTON, Master of Corpus Christi College; Patrick Neill, Warden of All Souls College; Ernest Nicholson, Provost of Oriel College; Raymond Plant, Principal of Mansfield College; Jessie Rawson, Warden of Merton College; Richard C. Repp, Master of St Cross College; George Richardson (Warden of Keble College 1989-94); John Roberts (Warden of Merion College

1984-94); Richard G. Smethurst, Provost of Worcester College; Anthony Smith, President of Magdalen College; David Smith, President of Wolfson College; Robert Stevens, Master of Pembroke College; Duncan Stewart, Principal of Lady Margaret Hall.

KEITH THOMAS, President of Corpus Christi College; Geoffrey Thomas, President of Kellogg College; Crispin Tickell, Warden of Green College; Dennis Trevelyan, Principal of Mansfield College; Ralph Waller, Principal of Manchester College; Henry Wansborough, Master of St Benet's Hall; Thomas Weland, Warden of Greyfriars; Derek Wood, Principal of St Hugh's College; Christopher Zeeman, Principal of Hertford College.

CAMBRIDGE: David Williams, Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge; Sam Edwards, Provost of King's College; Michael Alyn, Master of Trinity College; Patrick Bateson, Provost of King's College; Gillian Beer, President of Churchill College; Juliet Campbell, Mistress of Girton College; Alan Cathbert, Master of Fitzwilliam College; John Dingle, President of Hughes Hall.

TERENCE ENGLISH, Master of St Catharine's College; Peter Goddard, Master of St John's College; Peter Gray, Master of Gonville and Caius College; John Girdoun, Master of Magdalene College; David Harrison, Master of Selwyn College; Bob Hepple, Master of Clare College; Gabriel Horn, Master of Sidney Sussex College; Gordon Johnson, President of Wolfson College; Hans Koenig, Master of Christ's College; Richard Laws, Master of St Edmund's College; Jack Lewis, Warden of Robinson College; Geoffrey Lloyd, Master of Darwin College; John Lyons, Master of Trinity Hall; Peter Mathias, Master of Downing College; Oona O'Neill, Principal of Newnham College; Valerie Pearl, President of New Hall; Pauline Perry, President of Lucy Cavendish College; John Polkinghorne, President of Queens' College; Kate Pretty, Principal of Homerton College; Colin Renfrew, Master of Jesus College; John Meurig Thomas, Master of Peterhouse; Roger Tomkys, Master of Pembroke College; Anthony Wrigley, Master of Corpus Christi College.

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Lost skier survives three nights of blizzards

Diet of snow and Mars bar fuelled will to live

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A CROSS-COUNTRY skier feared to have frozen to death after being lost for three nights in a blizzard in the Grampian mountains amazed rescuers yesterday when he walked to safety. Andrew Wilson, 44, from Glasgow, survived on one Mars bar and snow and sheltered in his bivouac bag in a snow hole as temperatures fell to minus 35C.

Rescuers who had been searching for him since he was separated from his skiing companion on Saturday said he had survived after spending longer on the mountains in such severe conditions than anyone before. He was found, confused and with severe hypothermia, on what rescuers from Braemar had decided

would be the last day of searching.

The crew of a Royal Air Force Sea King helicopter from HMS Gannet saw him waving his arm one mile north of the Glenshee Ski Centre at 10.30am. Leading Aircrewman Gerry Flannery was winched to the ground and waded through waist-deep snow to reach him. "He was lying in quite deep snow that was drifting," he said.

Sergeant Graham Gibb of Grampian Police, who co-ordinated the three-day search, said: "He was shivering badly, was very weak and suffering from severe hypothermia but was still conscious. He must have had the will to live. I have never before found anybody alive on the fourth day of a rescue in these conditions, or any conditions for that matter," he said.

Mr Wilson told doctors at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, where he was recovering last night, that after spending two nights in a snowhole at 3,000ft he decided to descend the mountain whenever the weather broke.

It was that decision which saved his life. On Monday night he was sheltering at 2,000ft on Cairn of Claise and the relentless blizzards that had been battering the mountains eased, allowing him to start down the mountain in



Andrew Wilson being carried into Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. He was suffering from hypothermia after surviving temperatures of minus 35C

the dark. "He would have had to go through waist-high snow during the night but he would have been helped by the moonlight," Mr Gibb said. "Once he came out of his snowhole he just kept going and was out all night retracing his steps and heading back towards his car at the Seanspittal Bridge. He was in a steep gully which automati-

cally took him down towards the road." About 90 rescuers a day were involved in the search. Sergeant Gibb said that shortly after Mr Wilson was rescued the weather became so bad that if he had remained on the hill they would never have reached him. A decision had already been made in the morning to make yesterday the last day of searching. Dr

Bill Morrison, the accident and emergency consultant at Ninewells Hospital, said yesterday: "He is remarkably well and thankful that he is here with us. I don't think anyone expected him to be alive. Whatever he is on, I'll have some of it."

Dr Morrison said Mr Wilson was suffering from hypothermia and when he was admitted was asking for Irn Bru, the most popular soft drink in Scotland. Dr Ray Newton, consultant physician, said Mr Wilson was showing no signs of frostbite. He has been given warm fluids and has been put on a saline drip to rehydrate him. Dr Newton said: "He is in very good spirits. He is sitting up eating toast." The skier told doctors

that he had eaten only a Mars bar and some snow while lost in the mountains.

The two doctors said they were extremely surprised by Mr Wilson's physical condition and said he had survived by following the survival code to the letter. "He did all the correct things when the weather was very bad," Dr Newton said.

'I knew in my heart that he was alive'

By OUR SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ANDREW WILSON'S wife said last night she had never given up hope that he would be found alive. Marion Wilson said: "I knew in my heart of hearts that he was alive."

"We're both Christians, and a lot of praying went on. And last night it just came to me that he was alive. He is in remarkable condition. He said he prayed a lot and he thought about me."

Mrs Wilson, 40, paid tribute to the mountain rescuers, whom she described as marvellous people. She said that her husband had been hill walking for 20 years, and this was the first time he had got into difficulties. She thought his survival was due to his ability to get himself off the mountain.

She expected him to go back to the hills again. "Knowing Andy, this won't stop him. I certainly won't stop him. I'm his wife, I'm not his keeper. Andy's life is the outdoors."

Mr Wilson's father-in-law, Alan Fielding, said: "We are delighted. We never gave up hope. We thought if anyone could survive it would be Andy. He's a very experienced outdoor person and he had the right equipment."



Red Dwarf rape claim 'a travesty of the truth'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN who claims she was raped at the instigation of Craig Charles, star of the television comedy *Red Dwarf*, by one of his friends while they were high on cocaine denied inventing "a travesty of the truth" yesterday.

Stephen Solley QC, for the 30-year-old comic, suggested she had set out to destroy his client because she was "gutted" that he was going to get married.

Mr Solley also suggested that a third man in her flat in Clapham, south London, whom she described as looking like Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, was "a figment". The 38-year-old former dancer told Southwark Crown Court: "I am not mad" and that she had told police the man "had a build like Michael Portillo".

The woman alleges she was subjected to lengthy sexual "torture" involving cocaine, a bottle, a pen and an orange. She said she was bound and blindfolded, then raped by John Peplow. She was subjected to a series of indecent assaults, including oral sex, by the three on July 8 last year.

Mr Charles, of Kennington, and Mr Peplow, 36, a company director of Camberwell, both south London, deny a joint charge of rape and four joint counts of indecent assault.

The case continues.

Constable caught 31 suspects with Pacino-style sting

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A FILM starring Al Pacino provided the inspiration for a police sting operation to net 31 of Sheffield's most wanted criminal suspects.

Tempted by a letter offering the chance of a free television and video recorder, people who usually run at the sight of a police uniform eagerly walked into the offices of a market research company called Mison Giewold on Sunday morning. It was only when the attentive staff came forward to arrest them that they discovered the name was an anagram for Detective Constable Simon Wiegold, who thought up the plan.

By the end of the day, police had captured 26 men and five women. They included a man on the run from prison for six months and ten wanted for questioning about burglary, theft and perverting the course of justice.

Yesterday South Yorkshire police disclosed how they deployed a technique already used in America. PC Wiegold took the idea of a sting to bring in the suspects from the film *Sea of Love*, in which Pacino plays a New York policeman who offers free baseball tickets to criminals who are arrested when they turn up for them. In Sheffield the suspects were invited by letter to take part in a draw at

the bogus offices in return for answering a questionnaire on the quality of televisions and video recorders.

Yesterday Superintendent Stephen King, in charge of the operation, said the sting had meant the suspects were arrested without violence. "One or two said: 'That's a bloody good scam.' There were one or two congratulations." Others said they would never live it down.

PC Wiegold said police had discovered that one man was no longer wanted so they gave him some drinks. Impressed, he went home and persuaded his girlfriend to return with him. She was wanted and police arrested her.



Pacino, in *Sea of Love*, gave PC Wiegold his idea

Boy caught smoking is found hanged

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FATHER found his 12-year-old son hanging by a pyjama cord in his bedroom after being told off for smoking.

Glen Dobson said yesterday that when he opened the door of his son Mark's room there was darkness except for the light from the television. "I saw him hanging from the top of the bunk beds he shares with my four-year-old son Dean. At first I thought it was some sort of sick prank. But then I saw his face."

Mr Dobson screamed to his wife to call an ambulance and tried mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. "I was desperately trying to blow the life back into Mark. But he had gone cold. In my heart I knew my beautiful son was dead."

Mr Dobson said his wife Vreni had sent the boy upstairs at their Wigan home for misbehaving. "He had been fighting with his sister Mandy and had been caught smoking." When Mr Dobson returned from work on Monday night he went upstairs to show Mark a satellite television magazine.

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SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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Clergy condemn moves to replace 'job for life' system

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CLERGY in the Church of England were yesterday in open rebellion against moves to abolish their freehold, the "job for life" that has traditionally given them homes and security of tenure. The clergy, meeting at Church House, Westminster, demanded that bishops, deans and provosts should also lose their freehold.

The meeting was a rare independent gathering of the convocation of clergy in the Canterbury province, which represents more than 7,000 clergymen in southern England and the Midlands. Together with the York province, which represents the rest of England, they normally meet with bishops and laity as part of the General Synod.

The meeting condemned moves to replace the ancient freehold with a leasehold system and to introduce modern management-style assessment systems.

The 90 clergy threw out motions that laid down conditions under which the freehold could be abolished, most insisting that the freehold

should not go at all. A report of the heated debate will be put before the General Synod when it next meets in July. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, is thought to favour the abolition of the freehold and regular clergy assessment.

Canon Edwin Barnes, principal of St Stephen's House, Oxford, a high church theological college, said: "The only freeholds we need to remove are those for the dignitaries. Competition at the top is no bad thing. If bishops moved on every five years it would be a very good thing. They could go to more important and creative jobs in the parishes."

He said the confidence of parish clergy needed to be increased, not diminished. "Unless we do that we are fiddling around and the Church is going to decay and disappear."

Unlike ministers in most other churches, two-thirds of the 11,000 stipendiary clergy in the Church of England have what is known as the "parson's freehold". They remain

in full possession of their benefices until they die or reach retirement at 70, and are required by canon law to live in the rectory or vicarage.

The Rev Roger Arguile, team vicar of St Bertelin's, Stafford, and chairman of the Lichfield diocesan house of clergy, said the loss of morale among clergy was already causing many to seek secular employment. "I do not think the Church of England has anything like the machinery or any concept of what machinery would be appropriate for proper appraisal and career development."

The Ven John Burgess, Archdeacon of Bath, called for "very great caution". If the freehold was to be abolished it would have to include the freehold held by bishops, archdeacons and deans. "If you are going to go down this road, the house of bishops should give a lead," he said. The concept of leasehold and of management-style job appraisals would "discourage vocations to the ministry altogether".

Company director resigns after soccer riot

By ANDREW PIERCE

A COMPANY director seen hurling timber into the crowd during last week's soccer riot in Dublin has been forced to resign by his fellow directors who were at the England-Ireland match during a goodwill trade mission.

The directors are to rename the Tewkesbury company, GMAC Forest Products, which was named after Graham McNulty. He is believed to be associated with a far-right group which yesterday claimed responsibility for orchestrating the trouble. The directors feared that the company's future would be jeopardised if Mr McNulty, the company founder, stayed on the payroll.

Mr McNulty and his colleagues, who have extensive business links with Ireland, had gone to the Republic to try to win more business. Two of the directors entertained Irish customers at the match. It was on their return to England, when Mr McNulty's photograph was emblazoned over the newspapers,

that his colleagues realised that he had been involved. Gloucestershire police are examining a document claiming to be from the "Cheltenham Volunteer Force", which left its calling card on the terraces. It states: "England Invades of Dublin 1995. Ulster is British. No Surrender."

The document was handed in to a local newspaper in Cheltenham yesterday. In the document, the organisation, members of which go to see Aston Villa, which

Mr McNulty supports, says: "The Cheltenham Volunteer Force is a secret organisation started in 1985 by football supporters of England. The trouble in Dublin was orchestrated by us to give the English supporters their chance to teach the Republicans that the people of Britain will not give in to the intimidation and murders regularly committed by the IRA."

Combat 18, another far-right organisation, which is a splinter movement of the

British National Party, sent at least 50 members to last week's match. Members of the organisation were seen taking part in the riots in Rotterdam in 1993 after England's World Cup hopes vanished when they were beaten by Holland.

Mr McNulty, who has not spoken since his role was exposed, is currently in America.

The Garda team investigating the Dublin football riot is expected to arrive in

London for talks with Football Association officials and British police within a week.

A Garda spokeswoman said FA officials had stayed in Dublin until the weekend to help the Garda team to start the work of identifying the English rioters. The Garda were planning to seek extradition, she said.

FA officials believe that they and police have isolated a group of 40 at the core of the trouble and many of these have been identified.



Graham McNulty photographed at the Republic of Ireland match against England at Lansdowne Road last week

Malicious telephone calls cut by 20%

By ERIC REGULY

HEAVY breathers, hoaxers and hapless lovers have been dealt a severe blow by the new caller-identification services offered by BT, the company said yesterday.

Its caller-display and call-return services, introduced in early November, have resulted in a 20 per cent reduction in the number of reported malicious calls. By January, the average number of monthly complaints had fallen from 57,000 to 45,000.

Michael Biden, BT's director of sales, said: "This represents a very real reduction in human anxiety and fear." The number of hoax 999 emergency calls had fallen by a similar amount. "All the signs are that the drop is down to hoaxers getting the message that their calls can be traced," Mr Biden said.

BT said that the services, while making it easy for customers to identify callers, has not necessarily made it easier to track and prosecute offenders because the company had had the ability to trace calls for some time, and routinely co-operated with the police on such matters.

There is no charge for the call-return service, which is available across the country. It allows you to check the number of the last caller, but not the ones before that, by dialling 1471. BT said the 1471 feature was attracting almost three million calls a day. It has recognised, however, that callers have rights, too. If they dial 141 before the telephone number they wish to call, their own number will not be recorded.

First-half score goes to rugby woman

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

A WOMAN rugby official won a legal victory in her sex discrimination battle with the English Rugby Football Union yesterday. Beverley Davis, 35, wants to be the first woman on its national committee.

A county court judge granted her an injunction restraining the union from acting against her efforts to stand as a representative for Cornwall or from taking her seat if she is elected. She argued that the union had scuppered her hopes of success in next month's election by declaring women were not eligible to sit on the committee.

Judge Bishop, sitting at Brentford County Court, which covers the union's headquarters at Twickenham, said the union had had ample time to sort out the rules concerning women serving on the national committee. The delay had disadvantaged Mrs Davis. "The defendants have appeared to treat her less favourably than the men."

The issue of whether the union has been guilty of sex discrimination will be decided at a separate hearing in May. Mrs Davis, a dentist at Helston whose case has been backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, has agreed to step down if the court finds that the union acted lawfully.

The union said the court had not found it guilty of unlawful discrimination. Dudley Wood, the secretary, said: "It has never been the union's intention to impede or hinder Mrs Davis from standing for election."

'Too lenient' parking attendant suspended

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A PARKING attendant with a reputation for being kind to motorists has been suspended on full pay pending investigations into allegations that he let off too many offenders.

The investigations are being carried out by Sterling Gramada, the private company that won a contract to regulate on-street parking for Avon County Council last September.

John Browne, 42, the suspended attendant, was responsible for adjudicating appeals against penalties for parking offences in Bath.

Colleagues say he would often cancel tickets issued to foreign visitors and people who persuaded him they had a genuine reason for parking too long in the wrong place.

Earlier this month he was sacked from his £15,000-a-year job but was reinstated on appeal pending the investigation. Next Monday he will be told whether the company will keep him on.

Mr Browne refused to comment but one colleague said: "John was always very fair and he always looked at the facts of each case."

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Victims of violent crime to be asked for views on cases

By LUCY BERRINGTON

VICTIMS of violent crime are to be asked for their opinions on prosecutions and the granting of bail, the Director of Public Prosecutions announced yesterday. In the past, Barbara Mills, QC said, victims had had too little influence on decisions to prosecute but they were no longer the "forgotten people in the criminal justice system".

Mrs Mills told a conference in London organised by the charity Victim Support: "We must do more to give them a voice, within the proper constraints imposed by the need to respect defendants' rights to a fair trial in accordance with the law."

"Their voices cannot dictate but they must be heard if we are to avoid them feeling doubly victimised, once by the

criminal and once by the criminal justice system."

From next month, police will routinely seek the views of victims and pass them to the Crown Prosecution Service, where they will influence the decisions made. Mrs Mills said. She added that the views of victims would be taken into account "whether put forward in their own statements, in information supplied by the police or in compensation claims".

The policy is to be set out next month in an updated version of the *Police Guidance Manual* which, Mrs Mills said, would say that "in most severe cases police will routinely search out the victim's views and put them before the court". Those views would be entered on the case file that

goes to the Crown Prosecution Service. With lesser offences, police would not actively seek a victim's views but if they were known, they would be included in the file.

Mrs Mills acknowledged that until now victims had had too little influence. The new policy would ensure that their fears about the consequences of bail, including the risk of intimidation or harassment, were put before the courts. She added that she wanted to see the views of victims affect the decision to prosecute where possible.

Since June last year the Crown Prosecution Service has had the power to appeal against magistrates' decisions to grant bail and has been successful in 70 per cent of cases. The director said that many of the CPS staff would like to do more for victims but were hindered by established priorities and lack of resources.

However, a series of steps had been taken towards giving victims more support. For example, the code for Crown prosecutors, which was rewritten last year, made clear that victims must be considered when establishing where the public interest lay. "It is a principle which the CPS is absolutely determined to follow," she said.

Helen Reeves, director of Victim Support, said the law should be reformed to give victims of crime enforceable rights. Despite the Government's Victim's Charter, published five years ago, victims suffered a lack of consultation, protection, recognition and information.

"Offenders have clear rights in our system of justice but victims have no enforceable rights under the law. We believe victims should have the right to be protected and to know what is happening in their case and why," she told the conference.

RHS at odds over site for famous library

By JOHN YOUNG

A PROPOSAL to move the world-renowned Lindley Library is to be put to an extraordinary general meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society.

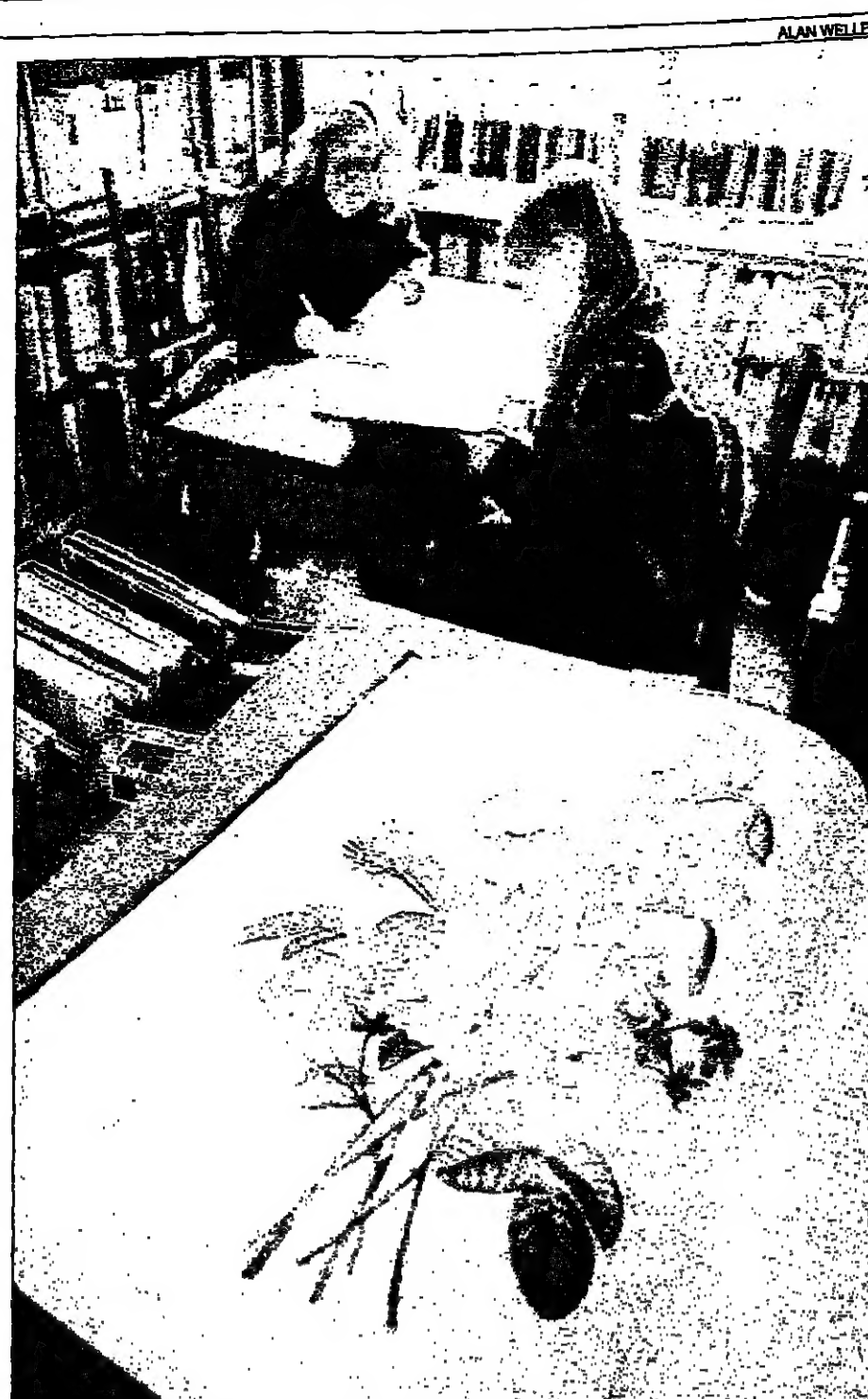
Members of the society are at odds over whether to locate the library, currently in Westminster, at a nearby site formerly occupied by Rochester Row police station or at the RHS headquarters at Wisley, Surrey.

The Lindley Library was established in 1886 and contains about 50,000 volumes dating from 1514 to the present, about 18,000 botanical drawings and a vast collection of periodicals and catalogues.

Anna Pavord, one of the leading objects to a move to Wisley, told the society's annual general meeting yesterday that the Rochester Row plan, drawn up by the architect Rick Mather, offered an opportunity to create a superb new site in the library's traditional heartland.

Ms Pavord said that she and others opposed to the Wisley move had been forced to requisition an extraordinary general meeting, to be held in a few weeks, because members of the council had refused all requests for the library to be debated at the AGM.

She said the Rochester Row site, which would be coming on the market soon, would provide an opportunity for the RHS to demonstrate the principles that it should be upholding. "We see this as an unmistakable chance for the RHS to lead the way in the greening of this city," she said. "The library would occupy only about a quarter of the 9,300 sq ft site. The rest could be devoted to gardens to which the public would have access." Ms Pavord estimated



The Lindley Library, in Westminster, attracts only about 1,800 visits a year

that at best the plan would cost slightly less than the £3 million predicted for the move to Wisley, and at worst about £3 million more. In the latter case, however, much of the difference could be recouped from exhibitions and displays.

"A library of the status of the Lindley should be in London," she told the AGM, to loud applause. "Do not turn your backs on this great, great chance." Earlier

Sir Simon Hornby, the society's president, had urged members not to forget that the main purpose of the library was to further the interests of the society. For many years it had been acknowledged the building in Vincent Square was inadequate.

The council had so far received 537 representations, of which 466 felt that access to Wisley would be too difficult and 48 were in

favour of the move. He said that even in London the library was not extensively used, with about 1,800 visits a year — less than 1 per cent of the membership.

The gardens at Wisley, on the other hand, attracted more than 600,000 visitors a year. If the library did move, a reading room would be retained at Vincent Square, to which all but the most valuable books could be brought.

MP wants 24-hour watch on Mrs West

Rosemary West, who was committed for Crown Court trial on ten murder charges last week, should be kept under 24-hour surveillance, the Gloucester MP Douglas French has told Derek Lewis, the Prison Service chief executive. Mrs West's husband Frederick committed suicide on New Year's Day.

Brothers shot

Two brothers aged 18 and 20 were in hospital after a stranger shot them in the leg and killed their rottweiler during an argument on waste ground in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Museum raided

Anglo-Saxon jewellery valued at £90,000 has been stolen from the Rutland County Museum in Oakham, Leicestershire. Nine sets of bronze-gilt brooches were taken.

Au pair tied up

A seven-year-old girl and an au pair were tied up by three armed raiders — one carrying an axe — who ransacked their home in Epping Green, Essex. The men all wore balaclavas.

Sole searching

A Japanese tourist has sent a pair of shoes 6,000 miles to Cheltenham for repair. Last month the cobbler made no charge for polishing a pair the visitor was wearing.

Off course

Lennie Leamouth, 62, found a 40lb pike when he searched for a ball in a flooded bunker at Wetherby Golf Club, West Yorkshire. The fish was set free in a river.

Owl rescued

Firemen were called out to rescue a barn owl that had become entangled in a television aerial, in Chatham, Kent. The owl was safely reunited with its owner.



COUNTDOWN TO PHONEDAY FOR BUSINESSES



With less than two months to go until PHONEDAY on 16 April, the countdown is on for businesses to prepare for the day when all UK telephone codes change. As time ticks away, Mercury is urging businesses not to leave it to the last minute to get their phone equipment ready for the change.

What to do.

invokes, and business cards.

● Check to see if you're listed in any directories and make the necessary amendments.

● Change fire and security alarm systems which automatically dial specific numbers (your insurance may be invalid if these are not upgraded).

● Update messages on voicemail and answering machines.

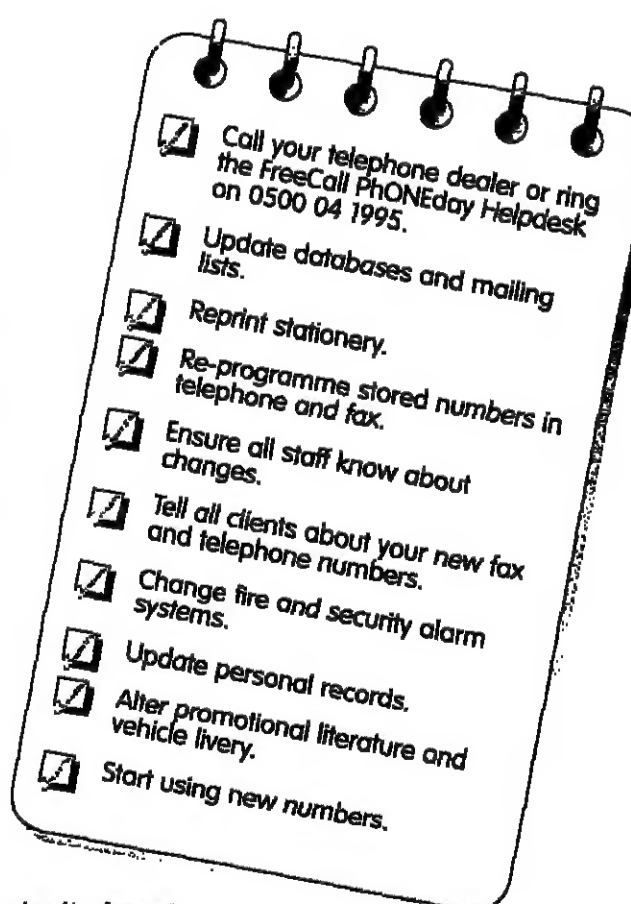
● Re-programme stored numbers on fax machines, telephones and modems. Remember to make a note of the number before you start to update as it will be erased once the new number is entered.

● Give someone in your company overall responsibility for the changes.

● Ensure your system is upgraded by ringing your maintainer. If you have any problems with this, call the Mercury Helpdesk on 0500 04 1995.

● Update all internal databases and mailing lists.

● Reprint your stationery including: letterhead, fax sheets, compliment slips,



pletely new codes instead of an additional '1'.

Mobile phone users will be pleased to know that there will be no extra numbers added to their telephone codes.

FreeCall numbers, premium services and operator numbers remain unchanged.

Without a doubt, the most vital preparation for PHONEDAY is ensuring that your phone system will be able to recognise the new codes.

Simply call your dealer who can perform any changes in a matter of minutes.

If you have any general queries or need any advice about the code change, call the Mercury FreeCall Helpdesk on 0500 04 1995 which will be able to answer your queries.

PHONEDAY on April 16, when all the UK telephone numbers will change, is less than two months away.

Mercury customers who have not contacted their phone system maintainer need to do so as soon as possible to be advised on changes needed to their phone system before PHONEDAY.

Some businesses could see their phone

bills increase if they do not upgrade their system because the device which routes all their long distance and international calls over Mercury may no longer recognise the new codes.

Mercury customers who need help can call 0500 04 1995 for further information.

Planning for PHONEDAY involves more than a simple upgrade to the phone system.

Research carried out

by Mercury Communications has shown that most companies still do not understand the full implications of the forthcoming number change.

A Mercury spokesperson said, "While most businesses, for example, have started changing the phone numbers on their office stationery, few have altered their office signs, alarm systems or updated their customer databases."

● Give someone in your company overall responsibility for the changes.

● Ensure your system is upgraded by ringing your maintainer. If you have any problems with this, call the Mercury Helpdesk on 0500 04 1995.

● Update all internal databases and mailing lists.

● Reprint your stationery including: letterhead, fax sheets, compliment slips,

As soon as your system is upgraded,

don't forget to remind staff to start using the numbers immediately. They don't have to wait until 16 April.

● Tell all clients, especially those overseas, of your new numbers, both fax and telephone.

Many people don't realise that the international dialling prefix is also changing on PHONEDAY.

To call customers overseas you will need to dial '00' in place of

'010'.

There are five cities in the UK — Leeds, Sheffield, Nottingham, Bristol, Leicester — that will be more affected by PHONEDAY than others.

These are the only cities which will have com-

16 APRIL 1995

PHONEDAY

AREA CODES STARTING 0 WILL START 01

Home Office rejects calls for review of rape secrecy

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Office yesterday ruled out a review of the law to consider whether defendants in rape cases, as well as the alleged victims, should be granted anonymity.

The decision, in the wake of the acquittal of a police constable on Monday, sparked a clash between lawyers over the need for reforms.

Sir Frederick Lawton, a former Court of Appeal judge, who said he had "probably heard more rape cases than any other living person", said defendants should be given anonymity until found guilty.

This was recommended in 1984 by the Criminal Law Revision Committee in its report on sexual offences but rejected by Parliament.

Sir Frederick said: "My view, and that of the committee, was that if the victim has anonymity, so should the defendant. Why should this unfortunate young policeman have his name all over the press? It is quite unfair."

Yesterday the woman of officer who accused PC Michael Seear of rape said she sympathised with calls for both parties in such trials to remain anonymous. The woman, who cannot be named and whose words were spoken by an actress, told BBC Radio 4's *World at One*: "Looking at it objectively I can see that both

parties should be anonymous." The woman, aged 25, added: "You can look at it like this: he may have had his photograph in the papers as the accused but at least he has got a chance to clear his name..."

PC Seear, who was cleared at the Old Bailey of raping the woman after a New Year's Eve party, was yesterday reinstated by Surrey Police after a ten-month suspension. He is expected to take time off before returning to work.

Sir Frederick's call for anonymity for defendants was criticised by Jennifer Temkin, professor of law at Sussex University and author of *Rape and the Legal Process* (Sweet & Maxwell). She said that it would conflict with the principle of open justice. "No other defendants are granted anonymity, so why single out the alleged rapist for privileged treatment?"

She said that if anonymity were granted, it would have to apply to all defendants, raising "the whole question of whether the public's right for information, and the question of open justice, should take precedence over protecting the rights of defendants".

Anonymity now extends to alleged victims of all sexual attacks. The only other category granted anonymity is blackmail victims.

There was no support yesterday for removing the alleged victim's anonymity in the event of an acquittal. Lawyers said this would deter victims from coming forward.

Barbara Hewson, vice-chair of the Association of Women Barristers, said: "When you consider that only a tiny proportion of instances of rape ever result in a conviction, because only a small number are reported and of those only a small number proceed and result in a guilty verdict, then all this gnashing and wailing of teeth over the odd defendant who finds himself in the dock is grossly overdone."

Law, page 42



Lawton: sympathy for "unfortunate policeman"



Pamela Tulk-Hart: she flew Spitfires, Mustangs, Hurricanes and Typhoons

Pioneer who flew solo after 12 hours

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AS the RAF unveiled its first female Tornado pilot yesterday, one of the few women who flew combat aircraft in the Second World War recalled her days in the cockpit for the Air Transport Auxiliary.

More than 50 years before Flight Lieutenant Jo Salter took off in her Tornado GRI strike aircraft as a qualified jet fighter pilot, Third Officer Pamela Tulk-Hart was flying Spitfires, Hurricanes, Mustangs and Typhoons for the war effort. It took another 45 years of peace before the RAF decided—in 1989—that women should be allowed a flying career in the service again but only in a non-combat role. That changed in 1991 when ministers decided to break the taboo and train women to fly fast jet combat aircraft.

Mrs Tulk-Hart, 76, was one of 30 women in the Air Transport Auxiliary who were trusted to deliver new bombers and fighters from the factories to their bases in Britain, and also to undertake the dangerous job of flying damaged aircraft to repair facilities.

Recalling those days, battling against appalling weather conditions without today's sophisticated navigation systems, Mrs Tulk-Hart wished *Fitz* Lt Salter good luck in her pioneering combat flying career. Mrs Tulk-

Hart, who lives near Uckfield, Sussex, joined the ATA in 1942 at the age of 22. She had no flying experience and after only 12 hours she went solo for the first time in a Miles Magister trainer. "I learnt to spin in a Tiger Moth," she said.

Although she was never allowed to fly in combat missions, Mrs Tulk-Hart said she faced many hazardous moments. Her worst experiences came when she had to fly aircraft stamped "NEA". She said: "These were 'Not Essentially Airworthy' planes which we had to take for repairs. It was never a pleasant experience."

Photograph, page 1



Tulk-Hart with the Spitfire in 1943

Travellers face ferry misery in blockade at ports

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TENS of thousands of travellers face severe delays to their journeys tomorrow and Friday as French seamen prepare for a 48-hour blockade of the Channel Tunnel and Channel ports from Brittany to the Belgian border.

Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, has contacted M Bosson, his French counterpart, urging him to keep the ports open. "We will expect the French authorities to take appropriate action," a Transport Department spokesman said. The Government deplored the "totally unjustified" attempt to inconvenience innocent passengers, he said.

The threatened blockade is in protest at the employment of 55 low-paid Polish seamen on two ships run by Meridian Ferries, a small cross-Channel freight operator, on its Folkestone to Boulogne service. If it goes ahead it could bring chaos to the half-term holiday with hundreds of thousands of passengers due to pass through the Channel ports. Bookings this week have also been swelled by a number of special promotions offered by the ferry companies.

The main British ferry operators, P&O European Ferries and Stena Sealink, are drawing up contingency plans to reroute their services to Belgian ports if the blockade goes ahead. These would involve crossings of up to four hours replacing the one and a half hour Dover to Calais route. Day-trippers will be advised to postpone their journeys. "The potential for disruption is huge," Chris Laming, of Stena Sealink, said.

The dispute between the French maritime unions and Meridian is already in its fourth week with mass pickets of several hundred French seamen daily confronting dozens of riot police. Seven sailors were arrested last week when they tried to block the berthing of *Spirit of Boulogne*, one of the Meridian ships.

Meridian said it was "astounded that a band of rioters are being allowed to strangle our activities in Boulogne".

Evans offered £1m to revive Radio 1

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

RADIO 1 has hired the television presenter Chris Evans to host its breakfast show in what is said to be the biggest deal by a BBC radio station.

Matthew Bannister, the station's controller, is understood to have offered Evans's company Ginger Productions more than £1 million to produce the breakfast show for eight months to help to boost the station's flagging ratings.

Radio 1 has lost 5.5 million listeners in the past two years and was bracing itself for further falls after the imminent departure of Steve

Wright, the disc jockey who presents the breakfast show. Mr Bannister, who gave Evans his first break on the local London station GLR, said that the signing represented a "great catch" for Radio 1. It was also the first time such a key part of a BBC schedule has been given to an independent production company.

Evans, who made his name presenting Channel 4's *Big Breakfast* and *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush*, will start on April 24. Research showed he would be popular with the 15 to 35-year-old audience.

Watchdog urges tighter control of estate agents

By LIN JENKINS

MINIMUM qualifications for estate agents should be made compulsory to curb malpractice and improve public confidence, the profession's ombudsman said yesterday.

Complaints rose nearly 10 per cent last year despite the housing market being in the doldrums, Peter Quayle said. The Government has dismissed the idea of professional qualifications but Mr Quayle said: "Anybody can set up as an estate agent without demonstrating that he has at least a minimum standard of competence."

Baroness Mallalieu, QC, chairman of the council of the Ombudsman for Corporate Estate Agents, said an ombudsman covering the whole industry was needed to provide redress without the need for costly court cases. The ombudsman currently covers only the corporate chains, making up about half of the industry. "It may be only a very small number of cowboys who are guilty of failing to comply with any code of practice, but that, and a lack of understanding about the role

of estate agents, are reasons why members of the public still have mistrust about estate agents generally," she said.

One complaint in the report concerned an attempted rape. A man used a false name and address to obtain an appointment to view a property where the vendor was a single woman. He had claimed to have the particulars of the property, despite not having visited the agent. "Such sellers should insist all male viewers are accompanied," Mr Quayle said.

Yacht instructor lost at sea

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FERRY rescued four trainee yacht crew after their instructor was swept to his death in the Channel yesterday. P&O's *The Pride of Bruges* was diverted to assist the French-registered *Phoenix* when her crew issued a mayday signal

after their Belgian instructor was lost overboard.

As the crew of the ferry, en route for Calais, hauled the trainees on board, an RAF helicopter found the missing man in heavy seas and flew him to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, where he was certified dead on arrival. The

instructor, aged 64, has not been named.

A P&O spokesman said the ferry found the yacht five miles east of Dover but heavy seas prevented lifeboats being launched. The crew pulled the sailors onto the ferry on rope ladders. Last night they were recovering in Calais.

Lyme Bay rescue official suspended on full pay

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE coastguard who was in charge at the time of the Lyme Bay canoe disaster has been suspended on full pay, it emerged yesterday. Donald McDonald, district controller of Portland Coastguard when four teenagers died, has been suspended pending the results of an internal investigation.

The news coincided with the publication of a report on outdoor activity centres by the House of Commons Education Select Committee. It contains evidence from centre managers, local education authorities and teachers, and emphasises the need for a statutory accreditation scheme for Britain's 3,000 centres.

Officials at Portland Coastguard, which is responsible for co-ordinating all maritime search and rescue operations along a stretch of Dorset coastline, last night declined to say whether Mr McDonald's suspension was connected with the Lyme Bay tragedy. A spokesman said they were conducting an internal inquiry and could make no further comment.

Mr McDonald, who took charge of Portland Coastguard in 1992, joined the coastguard in 1979 after serving in the Merchant Navy for eight years. He confirmed that he had been suspended, adding: "This action has been undertaken by headquarters subject to their internal inquiry. The outcome will be made known within the next two to three weeks."

David Jamieson, Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport, whose Outdoor Activity Centres Bill calling for legislation goes to standing committee today, said the select committee's report had emphasised the need to protect the millions of children and adults who used activity centres. "The Government has now recognised the need for action. They cannot turn back, but must urgently press ahead and get the Bill through parliament."

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New legal challenge to border controls launched

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government faces further pressure over its insistence on maintaining border controls with the advent of a fresh legal challenge under European law.

Lawyers for the Standing Conference on Racial Equality in Europe will ask the High Court to refer to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg the issue of Britain's power to make border checks on people arriving from other European Union countries.

The challenge is the second

over the border controls. In November 1993 the European Parliament lodged a court case against the European Commission, charging that the Commission had failed to ensure that member states fulfil its duty to guarantee free movement of individuals within the Community. If the Parliament wins in the European Court of Justice, the Commission might be required to demand Britain remove its border checks.

On Monday, the Standing

Conference on Racial Equality in Europe will argue that the maintenance of passport checks breaches Britain's obligations under the Treaty of Rome. The group rejects the Government's position — recently reaffirmed by the Prime Minister — that a general declaration by EU leaders in 1985 allows Britain to keep border controls.

The case is likely to add to the controversy over the issue after the resignation as trade minister of the former immi-

gration minister Charles Wardle, who said that the declaration was "not worth the paper it is written on". Conservative Euro-sceptics seized upon this as a further example of the erosion of British sovereignty by Brussels.

Supporters of the European Migrants Forum have also claimed that Britain is acting in breach of European law. Bernie Grant, chairman of the Standing Conference on Racial Equality and Labour MP for Tottenham, said yesterday: "We agree with Mr Wardle that the Government doesn't have a leg to stand on in terms of controls at British borders. We are concerned about the whole way in which this matter has been brought to the public's attention. We believe the race card is being played by Tory politicians."

Lawyers for the Standing Conference say that if their case is successful, it will open the way for individuals stopped at the border to claim compensation from the Government. The Home Office yesterday confirmed that it would contest the case.

Carriers owe £22m in charges

AIRLINES and ferry operators owe the Government £22 million in charges for passengers without proper travel documents, according to a report published today (Richard Ford writes).

The National Audit Office report, *Entry into the United Kingdom*, urges the immigration service to maintain a more rigorous attitude towards making firms pay the outstanding bills, which

amount to almost a third of the total charges imposed since 1987. Airlines and ferry companies are liable to a £2,000 charge for each passenger brought into the country without proper documentation.

In spite of new debt recovery procedures introduced two years ago, more than half the £12 million in charges levied since May 1993 are unpaid, the report says. It also says there is a big increase in the

number of people using sophisticated forged travel documents.

The report condemns the out-of-date methods used to hold information about suspects from non-European Union states. Each immigration officer has an index of suspects from non-European Union countries but it is in book form, contains 10,000 entries and has to be updated manually every day.



Burton as Hamlet: he ordered all 1,000 copies of the film to be destroyed

Burton's ghost returns as Hamlet in West End

By LIN JENKINS

RICHARD BURTON'S classic portrayal of Hamlet will return to the West End stage in rare film footage of the New York production.

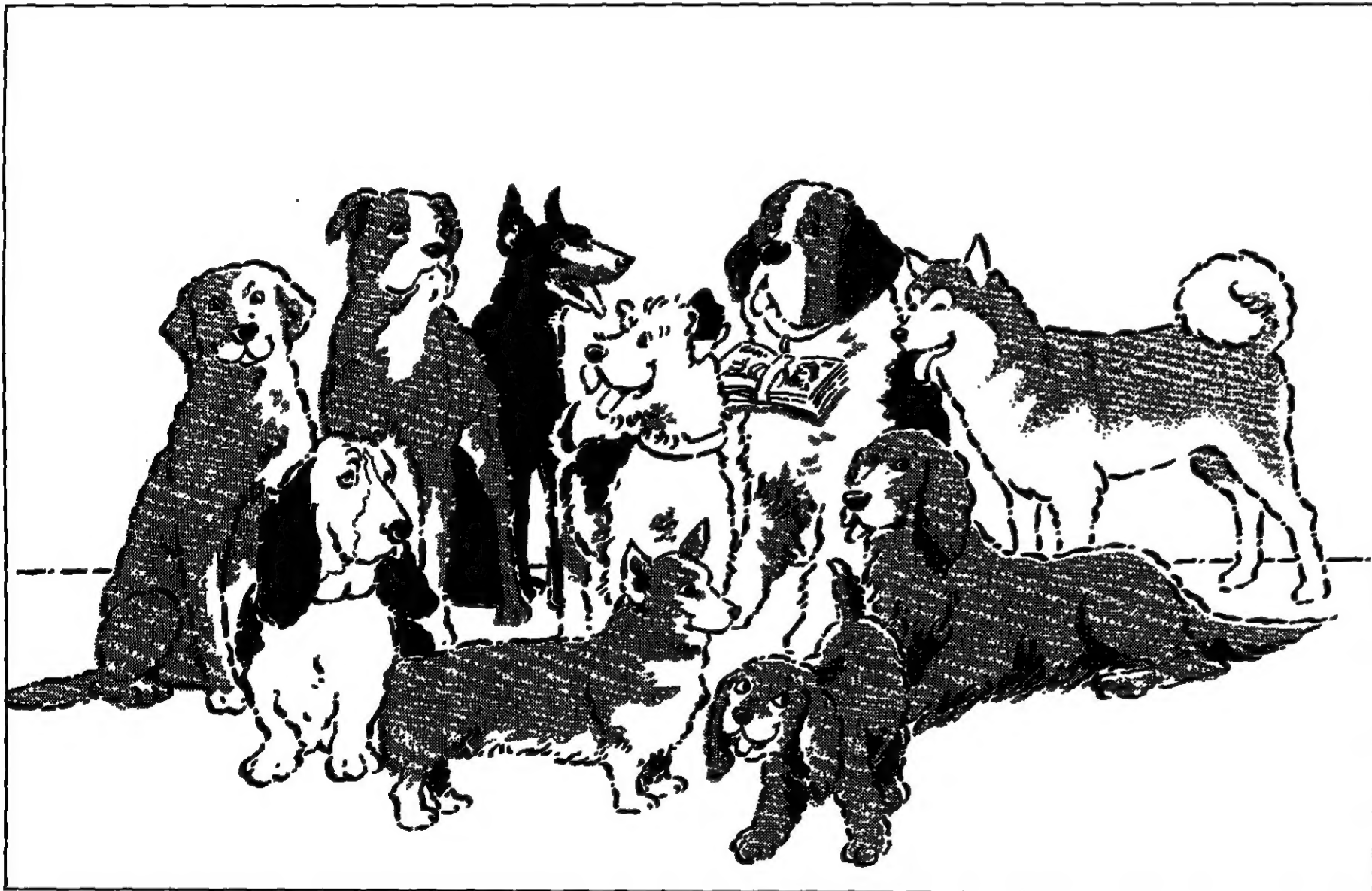
The film, which his widow Sally Burton found in three rusty cans among junk in the cellar of his Swiss chalet near Geneva, is being prepared by digital technology after being sold to a Hollywood producer.

After the 3½-hour film is shown at the National Film Theatre in April, it will transfer to a West End theatre to recreate the atmosphere of a live stage performance.

Burton allowed the 1964 production, directed by John Gielgud, to be filmed as an experiment. After the 17-week run he changed his mind and ordered all 1,000 copies to be destroyed because he thought they might affect the possibility of more stage work. The cellar copy was premiered in Cardiff in 1991 on the Welsh actor's birthday.

Brian Robinson of the National Film Theatre, where it will be shown as the finale to *Walking Shadows*, the year-long Shakespeare programme, said: "As a record of a theatrical performance, with Burton at the height of his powers, this is a fascinating document." Burton played the role after making the film *Cleopatra* with Elizabeth Taylor.

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Air traffic control sell-off attacked

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans to sell off air traffic control were strongly criticised yesterday by an all-party committee of MPs. Under the chairmanship of Paul Channon, the former transport secretary, the committee urged the Government to consider "corporatisation" — a new way of keeping the service in public control while enabling it to make a profit.

"Before the Government proceeds with its plans, we recommend that it publish detailed arguments as to why it does not favour the alternative put to us of converting the service into a profit-making public sector company," the report said. It also criticised the Department of Transport for giving only six weeks for consultation on their original proposals for selling off the National Air Traffic Service.

"Six weeks is simply not long enough to allow interested parties to give their views fully," the MPs said. The department was asked to give more time in the future and publish an account of the next consultation period.

The air traffic service is part of the Civil Aviation Authority which has a safety regulation group to oversee air traffic control. The committee said it was "uncomfortable" with the proposal that this safety group stayed within the CAA under

privatisation. The committee recommended that if government plans proceed, the safety group's work should be transferred to a separate body. The committee also recommended that if the service privatised, the Government should have a "golden share" in order to "preserve the UK's national interest in the independence of air traffic operations".

The proposal was dropped from the Queen's Speech because officially there was no time to draft the legislation. But there was also criticism from airlines and air traffic control unions which convinced proponents of the scheme that the measure may not have succeeded in getting through the Commons.

Joe Magee, general secretary of the IPMS union, which represents 3,000 air traffic controllers, welcomed the committee's report. He said: "The case was thin when it was first put forward. Now it is definitely shown to be not proven. It has destroyed the Government's case completely and shown that the CAA's case for investment was utterly wrong."

Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, denied that the report was critical and said that it "reflected our commitment to providing a modern and efficient air traffic control service".

THE TIMES DEMOS Communitarianism by Amitai Etzioni

Amitai Etzioni, founder of the American communitarian movement, is one of the most influential and controversial political thinkers in the world today. In this second Times/Demos Millennium lecture, he will present the communitarian case, its critique of both left and right and give his views on how society and government need to develop in the late 1990s.

In the last two years, Professor Etzioni's ideas have been taken up by politicians as diverse as President Clinton and Chancellor Kohl, Jack Kemp and Al Gore. He argues that we need to balance rights with responsibilities and that instead of leaving everything to the state or the market we need to build up the intermediate institutions of the voluntary sector, schools and the family.

The lecture, chaired by David Marquand, Professor of Politics at Sheffield University, will be held on Monday March 13, 1995 at 7.30 pm at Church House Conference Centre, Great Smith Street, Westminster SW1.

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Cautious Molyneux seeks compromise while Paisley rejects framework document outright

Unionists present their own plan for Ulster's future

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

THE leader of the Ulster Unionists urged London and Dublin to "get out of our way" yesterday as he published his party's proposals for a lasting political settlement in Northern Ireland.

James Molyneux dismissed the joint framework document to be published today by the British and Irish Governments as hopeless. He said that it should be shelved while the parties to the conflict concentrated on a Unionist plan to build confidence and trust in Ulster through the establishment of a devolved assembly.

However, he made clear that he would not boycott the bilateral talks that the Government intends to hold on the basis of the framework document. He said that as long as his party's proposals were also on the table, he would be prepared to discuss the way ahead with ministers. "We would not walk out of the room simply because it [the framework document] happens to be sitting on a side table," he said in a BBC radio interview.

In contrast to Mr Molyneux's more cautious approach, Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, rejected the framework document, declaring that his party would not take part in the peace process while it remained under discussion. "This document is a declaration of war on the Union, and on the Unionist people," he said.

Mr Molyneux's aim is to avoid the blame for any eventual breakdown in John Major's high-risk search for peace. His party's 5-page document, *A Practical Approach to Problem-Solving in Northern Ireland*, essentially proposes an internal settlement in Ulster, variations of which have been put forward by Unionists for the past 20 years. It says that lack of "trust" among the political elements in Ireland is the

ULSTER UNIONIST PROPOSALS

□ Publication by the two governments of a new document (framework 1) identifying problems, grouping them for resolution, and setting out formulas for dealing with each group

□ Six months of intensive talks involving all parties and both governments leading to a second document (framework 2) detailing areas of agreement

□ Early elections to an "interim assembly" in Ulster charged with implementing agreements reached. Responsibility to be shared with positions of power allocated according to the number of seats won by each party. Questions about relations between London and Dublin (strands 2 and 3 of the joint framework document) would be dealt with once the assembly was in place

□ A referendum after a two-year transition phase with the people of Northern Ireland giving their verdict on the progress made

have apparently been outmanoeuvred by Mr Major and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, to the point that they cannot boycott talks without risk of being blamed for precipitating a resumption of violence. It accuses the Government of being "prepared to threaten Ulster Unionists with the terrorists' guns".

Mr Paisley, who held a press conference after an 80-minute meeting with the Prime Minister yesterday, claimed that the framework document was a sell-out to the nationalists and accused Mr Major of "bartering the birthright of Ulster as part of the United Kingdom".

Publishing his party's submission to the Prime Minister and a separate "formula for political progress", Mr Paisley said he would talk with ministers on these papers but not on the basis of the framework document. The Democratic Unionists now hope to persuade the Ulster Unionists to join them in boycotting the peace talks.

Mr Paisley said that the Government's document was not the consultative or discussion paper that Mr Major had promised. "There is only one line and one proposition in the document and that is the Dublin line and the Republican agenda. It points the people of Northern Ireland down one road only."

He said that it was an intricate contrivance to be able to say that Northern Ireland remained in the UK, while preparing for a takeover by Dublin. "It's quite clear that this is an effort to buy off the IRA. There is nothing to strengthen the Union."

Mr Paisley also said that the Government would try to "blackmail" the unionists by telling them that violence could return if they failed to support the document.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Photograph, page 24



48 hours of hectic activity in quest for lasting peace

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Whitehall machine went into overdrive yesterday as John Major and his most senior ministers and officials prepared for today's publication of the framework document. Ulster's political leaders also began a hectic 48 hours, the outcome of which is critical to their hopes and fears.

James Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionists, is fearful that his relatively moderate approach to the Prime Minister's initiative could play into the hands of Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, who yesterday rejected any talks on the document. Mr Molyneux is playing for high stakes. Many MPs believe that he could be

ousted if his strategy fails to pay dividends for his party.

This is the timetable:

YESTERDAY:
10.20am London and Belfast: The Ulster Unionists publish their proposals for a political settlement

10.30am London: Cabinet meets to approve framework document and separate paper on proposed assembly

3.29pm House of Commons: Mr Major urges the politicians and people of Ulster not to let the chance of a permanent peace "slip away"

3.50pm The Commons: Mr Major meets Mr Paisley in his office for 80 minutes

5.15pm The Commons: Mr Paisley condemns framework

document as sell-out to IRA

Evening: Mr Major flies to Ulster for dinner with John Bruton, and overnight stay

TODAY:
8am House of Commons: advance copies of the two documents released

9.45am Belfast: Mr Major and Mr Bruton launch framework document

Late morning: Belfast Conference Centre: Mr Major and Sir Patrick Mayhew launch paper on Northern Ireland assembly

Late afternoon: Belfast: Mr Major flies back to London

3.30pm The Commons: Mr Major makes Commons statement on joint proposals

Major can expect to gain, but not at the ballot box

John Major may receive more praise from historians than thanks from voters for his handling of Northern Ireland. It is one of those issues which is of enormous political importance but of little immediate significance to most people. Those who care, care passionately, but they are a minority among voters, and MPs.

Northern Ireland is, on a much larger scale, like Rhodesia was from 1965 to 1979, or the Falklands was in early 1980s and Hong Kong will be until 1997. These problems involved incompatible positions, stubborn participants, intractable negotiations and false starts. They absorbed much time, but produced few political benefits.

Even after Harold Wilson's abortive attempts to reach agreement with Ian Smith in the Tiger and Fearless talks of 1966 and 1968, there were repeated, though less high profile, initiatives during the 1970s before the breakthrough in 1979. While the issue caused bitter divisions in the Tory party over the period, the eventual solution was an anti-climax, and was barely mentioned during the 1983 election.

The successful recapture of the Falklands in June 1982 did, of course, boost Baroness Thatcher's standing, though she would probably have won in 1983 anyway in view of the Labour Party's dire state. But the war was only necessary because diplomacy had failed and the Foreign Office had been unwilling to raise the issue after Nicholas Ridley ran into opposition from a vocal minority in the Commons after talks with Argentina in 1980.

The Falklands did not matter enough for Lord Carrington to believe that it was worth risking a big row.

Hong Kong similarly interested only a small group of MPs and the tortuous negotiations with China over its post-1997 future did little for the standing of Lady Thatcher and Lord Howe. The only time Hong Kong has hit the headlines in Britain was four years ago in the debate about which, or rather how many, of its residents should have the right to enter Britain. Now, while there is widespread sympathy for Chris Patten's efforts as Governor, most MPs take a fatalistic attitude. They believe that the initiative has already passed to China more than two years ahead of the formal handover.

These can all be regarded as residual colonial, even imperial, problems, while Northern Ireland is different. It is an integral part of the United Kingdom, rather than a remote colony of which we know little. That is true in the sense that no British Government could agree to a change in the running of the Province without the consent of a majority of its people, the triple-lock which Sir Patrick Mayhew has repeatedly promised.

The Unionists argue that Northern Ireland must remain part of the UK, yet by their behaviour they ensure that it is treated differently from Scotland, Wales or any English region. For them, the interests of Northern Ireland come first, determining their attitude to other parties in the Commons.

Most people on the mainland also view Northern Ireland differently. That does not mean they want to abandon the Unionists or be seen to give Gerry Adams and the IRA a victory. Rather, they back

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

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Lloyd George: out of office after Irish deal

anything which could bring peace, while not being interested in the details. Mr Major has widespread support for his initiative to which he has applied his skills as a personal negotiator.

Mr Major's commitment was underlined by his eloquent appeal in the Commons yesterday for the continued involvement of all parties in the search for a permanent peace. That may have helped his public standing as a leader. But few British politicians have ever gained from their involvement in Irish affairs. Lloyd George was out of Downing Street the year after he negotiated the deal which led to the partition of Ireland, while his successors have lost little from neglecting the issue. Mr Major's attempt to break the stalemate is right and bold, but may produce few political or electoral dividends.

PETER RIDDELL

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Someone Cares

Combined effort driven by hope and ambition

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Anglo-Irish framework document is the most ambitious plan for Northern Ireland since the Hillsborough Agreement of 1985, which gave Dublin a consultative role in the Province.

British and Irish officials have spent nearly two years in intense negotiations drawing up the 23-page document. Dublin hopes to placate the Unionists by pledging in the document to amend Articles 2 and 3 of its constitution, which lay claim to the territory of Northern Ireland.

Britain, in turn, will appeal to the nationalists by agreeing to insert the principle of consent into the 1920 Government of Ireland Act, which stated that Parliament had "supreme authority" over the Province. The document will also propose joint North-South bodies, with executive powers over areas such as tourism and agriculture, presided over by members from a new Northern Ireland assembly and the Irish Parliament.

The Joint Liaison Group of British and Irish officials started work on the document in mid-1993 after the collapse of the Brooke-Mayhew inter-party talks at the end of 1992. The principles that underpin the document were outlined in December 1993 in the Downing Street declaration issued by John Major and Albert Reynolds, then the Irish Prime Minister. The two leaders agreed to uphold the will of the majority of the people in Northern Ireland while recognising an all-Ireland element by establishing "arrangements within Northern Ireland, for the whole island, and between these islands". The framework document, which can be accepted, amended or rejected by the political parties

and the people of the Province, in effect proposes legislative substance for the declaration of 1993.

Britain's negotiating team has been led by Quentin Thomas, the deputy secretary at the Northern Ireland Office, who also leads the Government's delegation in its exploratory talks with Sinn Féin. The Irish side, which is led by Sean O'Uiginn, second secretary in the Anglo-Irish section of the Department of Foreign Affairs, is more political. It includes Sean Donlon and Fergus Finlay, key advisers respectively to John Bruton, the Prime Minister, and Dick Spring, his deputy.

Yesterday Paul Bew, professor of Irish politics at Queen's University, Belfast, described the North-South bodies as the most radical Irish dimension ever to be proposed. Despite the assurances of Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, that the document will be subject to a "triple-lock" of parties, people and Parliament, Unionists regard the proposals as a sop to the IRA to prevent them from returning to violence.

Sinn Féin, which will consider the document at length before giving its response, will be concerned that Dublin has agreed to amend its constitutional claim to Northern Ireland. The party rejected the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 because it "copper-fastened partition", and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, may reach a similar conclusion. However, some commentators in Belfast believe that the all-Ireland elements in the document may allow Mr Adams to tell his supporters that the plans represent an important step towards Britain's disengagement from the Province.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, questions to education ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by a debate on the Health Authorities Bill, remaining stages. The Lords debated the committee stage of the Pensioners Bill and the Civil Evidence (Family Mediation) (Scotland) Bill.

TODAY: In the Commons, MPs sit at 10am for backbench debates, the first of which will be on the export of live animals. At 2.30pm there will be questions to Scottish ministers. David Heathcoat-Amory, the Paymaster General, will open a debate on VAT rebates, which will be followed by debates on the Avon (Structural Change) Order, Education (Mandatory Regulations) and Education (Student Loans) Regulations. The Lords will debate the second reading of the Blasphemy (Abolition) Bill.

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Peres pleads for peace as divided PLO leaders meet

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SHIMON PERES, the Israeli Foreign Minister, issued a dramatic appeal for the Palestine Liberation Organisation not to suspend the troubled Middle East peace talks hours before its ruling executive committee opened an emergency session in Cairo last night.

Suspension was reported to be one suggestion among 25 motions before the meeting, which was brought forward from its original March date after last weekend's failure of a meeting in Paris between Mr Peres and Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman. The encounter had tried to resolve the deadlock preventing implementation of the second stage of the treaty signed in Washington in September 1993.

As delegates of the divided committee gathered in the Egyptian capital amid growing criticism of the peace deal among Palestinians and new death threats by radical Palestinians against Mr Arafat, Mr Peres urged the committee to bolster the peace negotiations rather than halt them as a number of leading PLO figures have demanded.

"There is no turning back from the peace process, neither for the Palestinians, nor for us. And if we encounter hardships, the solution is not to suspend the talks, but to bolster them," the Israeli min-

ister and joint Nobel Peace Prize winner said.

Even before the two-day meeting began, controversy surrounding it had illustrated the disarray inside the PLO. The organisation is deeply split between leading Palestinians who have remained in the headquarters in Tunisia and those who have followed Mr Arafat to the overcrowded Gaza Strip. Four of the original 18 members have resigned in protest at the peace deal and a number of others were expected to boycott the meeting.

According to Arab observers in Tunis, which is still technically the PLO's main base, the movement which for years was largely united in the battle against Israel is now cracking.

When Mr Arafat flew into Tunis on Monday night en route to the meeting, no senior PLO leaders met him at the airport. PLO officials in the said that Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's "Foreign Minister", and Abu Mazen, who signed the 1993 deal on behalf of the PLO, would boycott the Cairo meeting. The officials claimed that Mr Kaddoumi was worried because the main Palestinian concern — the spread of autonomy to the whole of the West Bank, the refugee question, the question of continuing Jewish settlements

and the status of Arab east Jerusalem — had not been solved.

The PLO's Tunis bloc is frustrated because it has no control over the Arafat-led Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho. "Since Arafat returned to Gaza last summer, he is the only decision-making body in a peace process that is turning into an Israeli public relations game," a Tunis-based former close aide to Mr Arafat complained.

Palestinians have been angered by a seven-month delay in expanding self-rule beyond Gaza and the tiny West Bank enclave of Jericho, and by Israeli demands that Palestinian police should tighten their recent limited clampdown on Islamic militants living under PLO rule who remain determined to sabotage peace.

Nabil Shaath, one of the chairman's closest advisers, denied that Mr Arafat was under pressure from his inner circle, or that his popularity was diminishing. "On the contrary, it is rising because he is seen as not giving in to Israeli pressure," said the PLO negotiator. But he acknowledged that among the topics to be discussed in Cairo were emergency plans in case the talks with Israel collapsed. Last night, it appeared that at least nine committee members would attend the meeting.

Arab-Jew partners in crime 'net \$1bn'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

FOR the past seven years, even during some of the worst Israeli-Palestinian violence of the intifada, Arabs and Jews have apparently been co-operating in a money-laundering operation that smuggled at least \$1 billion out of Israel to banks in Europe.

The existence of the alleged ring involving ultra-Orthodox Jews and Arab moneychangers from annexed east Jerusalem was exposed when detectives made nine arrests in Arab and Jewish areas after a tip-off. Two Palestinians and a Jewish student from an Orthodox religious college remain in custody. The Jew was remanded for a second five-day period on Monday.

Shmuelik Ben Rubi, chief spokesman for the Jerusalem police, said yesterday that income-tax authorities were also involved in the investigation and more arrests were expected. The case is regarded as involving perhaps the biggest smuggling ring uncovered since the foundation of the Jewish state in 1947. "It seems that the main purpose was to spirit money out of the country to evade the tax authorities," Mr Ben Rubi said.

Police say Arab money-changers passed millions of dollars in cash and gold several times a month to their ultra-Orthodox partners who smuggled it to Swiss or other European banks, using foreign or forged passports.



A Karen family seek refuge in Thailand yesterday after the fall of Kawmoora base

Karen flee bastion in Burmese gas attack

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MAE SOT, THAILAND

ONE of the world's longest-running insurgencies abandoned its last significant stronghold yesterday after intensive shelling and gassing by Burmese troops, rebel and Thai sources said.

The Burmese rained a barrage of artillery on the Karen rebel base of Kawmoora from midnight until 3am, forcing 1,400 rebels to abandon the base before dawn, said Colonel Direk Yamngamreap, of the Thai Army. Karen rebels said they did not have enough weapons and ammunition to defend the base from the attack by thousands of Burmese soldiers. They said the Burmese troops fired gas into the base, making some rebels unconscious and giving others breathing and vision difficulties.

A Bangkok-based support group for the Burmese opposition, Burma Issues, said an unknown number of rebels were killed in the shelling or rendered unconscious. Some were reported to have been killed by the poison gas.

The Karen said that two of their troops were killed and 12 injured in the overnight attack. They had no casualty figures for the Burmese soldiers.

The Karen are among about a dozen ethnic minorities who began fighting for their own sovereignty after Burma gained independence from Britain in 1948.

BBC journalists in Royal scoop

BBC News and Sport win a record 9 Royal Television Society awards

Television Journalist of the Year
FERGAL KEANE - BBC NEWS CORRESPONDENT

International Current Affairs
PANORAMA - JOURNEY INTO DARKNESS

International News
SUE LLOYD-ROBERTS - BBC BREAKFAST NEWS - CHINA PRISONERS

International Current Affairs - Special Commendation
ASSIGNMENT - ALGERIA'S HIDDEN WAR

Regional News Magazine
BBC MIDLANDS - EAST MIDLANDS TODAY

Regional Current Affairs
BBC NORTHERN IRELAND - SPOTLIGHT

Sports Presenter
DESMOND LYNAM - BBC TELEVISION SPORT

Judges Award - Journalism
PETER TAYLOR - BBC TELEVISION CURRENT AFFAIRS AND DOCUMENTARIES

Judges Award - Sport
RICHIE BENAUD - BBC TELEVISION SPORT



JOURNALISM AT ITS BEST

Denial of sanctions breach on Iraq visit

BY MICHAEL DYNES AND JAMES BONE

ORGANISERS of the British business delegation conducting exploratory trade talks in Baghdad yesterday denied allegations that they were breaking United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

Edmund Sykes and Stephen Crouch, the commercial lobbyists who arranged the 27-strong delegation, are understood to have failed to obtain the necessary licence, putting them in breach of UN sanctions. Under British law, British citizens must obtain a communication licence authorising them to conduct trade talks with Iraqi officials while sanctions are in force.

Mr Sykes said in Baghdad that all the British businessmen taking part in the trip had obtained the necessary licences. He criticised Whitehall officials for starting an investigation into the visit. The Department of Trade and Industry refused to confirm or deny reports that it has started an investigation into a possible breach of sanctions, although it said any evidence of sanction-breaking would be examined. "If you wish to communicate with anyone in Iraq on business, you are required to have a communication licence," an official said.

"Any evidence that sanctions are being broken by communicating without a communication licence would be investigated and could lead to a criminal prosecution."

Mr Sykes said his role was to introduce the British businessmen to Iraqi officials and business executives. "The British Government is well aware of the trip to Iraq," he said. Reports that the delegation was under investigation were "intimidating," he added.

The trade delegation, which has representatives from the British food, pharmaceuticals, water purification and building industries, is the first to visit Baghdad since sanctions were imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Mr Sykes said that the delegation was ready to sign various deals with Iraq, and was prepared to put pressure on the Government to soften its stance on sanctions.

The first serious move in the Security Council to lift the Iraqi oil embargo could come as early as April, when France and Russia seek to reward Baghdad for co-operating with UN weapons inspectors.

Individual photographs of cloudless areas were put together to provide a single cloud-free image. Africa takes centre stage, with

THIS computer-generated picture of Earth was built from 60 single photographs taken by the Meteosat-5 satellite over two months last year. Individual photographs of cloudless areas were put together to provide a single cloud-free image. Africa takes centre stage, with

Coconut oil to fuel cars

Sydney: Cars in the South Pacific will be running on the sweet smell of coconut oil soon as part of a research project aimed at giving islanders a cheap alternative to imported fuel, a member of a research team said yesterday.

Oil extracted from coconuts using a new Australian tech-

nique will be pumped into the tanks of diesel cars and vans in a trial in Fiji this year, said Dan Etherington, of the Australian National University. The vehicles will not need any modifications, other than a second fuel tank, to use a pleasant-smelling blend of diesel and coconut oil. (Reuters)

Bonn 'mediator in Iran-Israel talks'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY has been acting as go-between in secret talks between Israel and Iran aimed in the first instance at freeing Ron Arad, the captured Israeli pilot, security sources confirmed yesterday. A report of the delicate contacts between the two declared enemies first emerged in the conservative *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. Iran denied yesterday that meetings have taken place, while the Israelis said they would neither deny nor confirm the report.

A Western security official was in no doubt about the authenticity of the report which appears to have been leaked from Helmut Kohl's chancellery. "Some of Bonn's allies were bemused in 1993 by Germany's red-carpet treatment of the Iranian Police Minister," the official said. "It was then quietly explained that the Germans were acting with the Israelis on behalf of Arad." The last Iranian-Israeli meeting in Bonn apparently was in December.

The pilot was shot down in 1986 over southern Lebanon and since then Israel has made him into a test of the Government's loyalty to captured or lost soldiers. Officially, the last sign of life from Captain Arad came in 1989 and even yesterday the line

from Israel was that there is still no proof that he is alive.

The German leaks indicate, however, that the Iranians have passed on an up-to-date video of the prisoner. Captain Arad's wife has been to Bonn several times recently, apparently to check the authenticity of material provided by the Iranians. A letter from the pilot has reached his wife through German channels.

The talks appear to be co-ordinated by Bernd Schmidbauer, Herr Kohl's top security adviser. Representatives of Iran and Israel have never met in the same room in Bonn, but information and offers have been carried back and forth by German diplomats and officials.

There is something of a mystery about the timing of the present leaks. The newspaper report said that the negotiations were close to a breakthrough. Diplomats speculated that a deal might already have been struck and the Germans were keen to ensure that their role does not go unacknowledged. Alternatively, Herr Schmidbauer may be coming under discreet criticism from America or Britain about Bonn's continuing contacts with Iran and be trying to relieve the pressure by authorising the leak.



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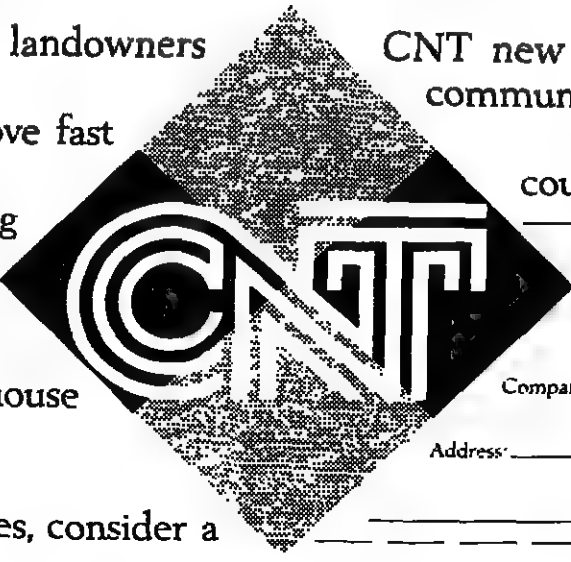
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Balladur refuses to sack key ally over phone taps

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

IN THE teeth of a political storm, Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister and presidential candidate, denied yesterday that he faced a Watergate over telephone tapping and shrugged off calls for the dismissal of his vital political ally, Charles Pasqua, the Interior Minister.

"This has nothing to do with Watergate," M. Balladur said as the media and presidential campaign opponents fanned the dispute over his involvement in the so-called Marseilles-Schuller affair into a political scandal.

In the most politically embarrassing act in 22 months as Prime Minister, M. Balladur made a U-turn on Monday, throwing responsibility on the police for the illegal tapping of conversations in a corruption inquiry involving an official

from his Gaullist party. The day before, he had taken responsibility for the operation, which had been approved by his office, insisting that there was nothing illegal about it.

M. Balladur, hitting back at foes and erstwhile friends yesterday, said that "the real Watergate" involved the "thousands of totally illegal telephone taps" that were disclosed last week as having been carried out by a secret police unit working for President Mitterrand in the 1980s. M. Balladur called the Marseilles-Schuller bugging affair a mistake. "There are 3,000 such cases legally allowed each year. Here is a single example of the law being misused. To make this an affair of state is bad faith," he said. "How can one com-

pare this with Watergate, which involved political espionage in the offices of a political organisation?"

The Prime Minister, whose lead in the presidential campaign has been whittled down by Lionel Jospin, the Socialist contender, said he had no intention of seeking the resignation of M. Pasqua, the controversial Gaullist heavyweight who is directly in the line of fire in the telephone affair. "He is a very good minister and as such he has my confidence," he said.

That did not mean that M. Pasqua, who flew back to Paris from Marseilles to meet the Prime Minister yesterday, had been saved. M. Balladur has ordered an investigation to find out why the police, who are under M. Pasqua's command, had presented a misleading version of the Marseilles-Schuller case when they applied to the Prime Minister's office for routine authorisation to tap the telephone.

Such taps are allowed only in matters of terrorism or serious organised crime. The complicated affair involved an alleged attempt by the father-in-law of an investigating judge to extort money from Didier Schuller, a Gaullist politician, for having the judge stop a corruption inquiry into his activities. Jacques Franquet, chief of the judicial police, resigned on Monday after the Prime Minister's office accused him of lying.

Political opponents said it was highly implausible that M. Pasqua, M. Franquet's ultimate boss, would not have been aware of the operation given the involvement of M. Schuller, a senior figure in his own political field, the *département* of the Hauts-de-Seine.

Scanting blood for the first time in the campaign, supporters of Jacques Chirac, M. Balladur's Gaullist rival, denounced the Prime Minister's handling of the affair. Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister and chief lieutenant to M. Chirac, declared: "This must be pursued to the end... to establish clearly who is responsible."



Jeanne Calment celebrates her 120th birthday in Arles yesterday

Oldest woman enjoys star role

FROM ADAM SAGE IN ARLES

THE eyes are a little cloudy now and the ears none too good. But on her 120th birthday yesterday, Jeanne Calment was unfettered by media attention.

As photographers clustered around her at her retirement home in Arles, Provence, Mme Calment looked up with the merest trace of a smile. For a woman who witnessed the first days of the telephone, the aeroplane and the cinema, the international press call held no fears. "The pupils of Arles hotel and Catering College are going to serve you

lunch," an employee of the home shouted into her right ear. "Ah," replied the world's oldest living person, who gave up smoking three years ago. "Good. I'm hungry."

"She knows she's the star and it's something she enjoys," said Victor Lèbre, the doctor at the *Maison du Lac* retirement home. At first we thought that she would be tired by all these journalists, but in fact they amuse her."

This was just as well, given the size of the celebrations. Along with 80 or so local dignitaries, there were dancers, singers and even Philippe Douste-Blazy, the Health Minister, who turned up in

time for a piece of birthday cake. There were thousands of cards and flowers, but one person appeared to be absent — André-François Raffray, 77, a solicitor who agreed 30 years ago to pay a life annuity of 2,500 francs (£307) a month under a deal to make him the owner of Mme Calment's flat when she dies.

How had she lived so long? Dr Lèbre said: "She comes from a bourgeois family and has never worked." Mme Calment puts it down to God's will. In 237 days' time, if he still agrees, she will beat the longevity record set by Shigeshima Izumi of Japan, who died in 1986.

Britain among poorest in EU

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN is among the poorest countries in the European Union, joining the ranks of Portugal, Spain and Greece as a region of below-average economic output, according to the Union's statistical office.

The survey of nations and regions, conducted by Eurostat and based on 1992 data, highlights vastly different patterns of wealth across the Union and within individual countries.

Germany had the starker internal differences, a consequence of unification, with four out of the EU's seven richest regions, but also five of the seven poorest. The five were in former East German territory, but Hamburg was found to be the wealthiest region within all nations surveyed, with almost double the Union's average regional figure.

Britain's GDP was marginally lower than the average of the 15-nation EU, ahead only of Ireland, Spain, Ireland, Portugal and Greece. Within Britain, the South East came out as the wealthiest region, with economic output above the EU average. The poorest regions in the United Kingdom were Northern Ireland and Wales.

Britain's overall poor performance has temporarily banned all commercials, calling advertisements "a source of irritation and disappointment", officials said yesterday.

Directors of Russia's huge state network, Ostankino, said television should be an instrument for accord and agreement in society, and that advertisements would be

War in Chechnia 'claimed 25,000 civilian victims'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

NEARLY 25,000 civilians, many of them women, children and the elderly, were killed in the Russian offensive against Chechnia, according to statistics released yesterday by Sergei Kovalyov, Russia's human rights commissioner.

In a damning report that could have damaging implications for President Yeltsin, researchers working for Mr Kovalyov determined that 25,000 people were killed between November 25, 1994 and January 25, 1995. "The scale of the losses was extreme," said the report, which went on to liken the Russian offensive to the Nazi invasion of Poland.

"It is only comparable to the losses Poland sustained during the Second World War."

According to the document the civilian death toll includes 3,700 children under the age of 15; 4,650 women over 15; and 2,650 men over 50. About 14,000 men between 15 and 50 were also killed, but only 650 fatalities were believed to be armed separatist fighters.

Although Mr Kovalyov, the main liberal campaigner against the ten-week conflict, has been accused of distorting the situation on the ground and inflating the Government's much smaller casualty estimates, he may be close to the mark. Aid workers and journalists who have visited the devastated Chechen capital of Grozny have reported that several thousand civilians were killed in the intense artillery and air bombardment.

The toll was high because of

the heavy weaponry used and the lack of medical facilities. Many of the wounded died from their injuries.

Some of the dead are still covered in the rubble of the buildings that collapsed on top of them or have been left unattended in the city streets several weeks after they were killed. Most of the dead are believed to be ethnic Russians who were unable to leave Grozny because they had nowhere else to go.

The document did not give a figure for Russian military losses, which are believed to be more than 1,000 dead or missing servicemen, most of whom were also killed in the siege of Grozny.

The reported scale of the casualties did not, however, appear to have any calming effect on the ground. Yesterday morning fresh fighting was reported across the break-away republic as Russian forces launched an offensive against rebel-held towns and villages to the east, south and west of Grozny. Russian bombers reportedly hit Chechen positions in Gudermes, Argun and Samashki, backed up by tanks and artillery.

For their part the Chechens do not appear to be ready to give up the fight. Anatoli Shabad, a liberal member of the Russian parliament who recently met General Dzhokar Dudayev, the Chechen separatist leader, said that the Chechens were capable of launching a counter-attack to retake Grozny.

Caution urged on single currency

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN LUXEMBOURG

MONETARY union will be expensive and risky for Europe if politicians force economies together before they are ready to cope with the potential strains of a single currency, Eddie George, the Bank of England Governor, said here last night.

In a speech which trod a careful line between scepticism and polite analysis of the arguments for a single currency, Mr George said leaders debating progress towards a monetary union should be careful not to let "political aspiration... run ahead of the economic realities".

Mr George echoed the view of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, who said in Bonn on Monday that the rules for establishing the stability of a European Union currency took precedence over the target date of 1997 in the Maastricht treaty. Jürgen Stark, Germany's junior Finance Minister, told EU counterparts on the same day that

technical preparation for monetary union should not be allowed to create the impression that Europe was ready before the economies had converged.

Mr George acknowledged the arguments in favour of a single currency "to the extent that it would increase economic and monetary stability within Europe and make the single market more effective". However, he said, "there are also potential economic risks in moving ahead before sustainable convergence is assured".

For a single currency to work, participating states had not only to make their economies converge but also to stay close to each other afterwards, he said. Echoing John Major's warning, Mr George said that an ill-conceived single currency might lead to arguments over high unemployment or subsidies which "could become a source of political as well as economic disharmony within Europe."

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TV's commercial break

Moscow. Russian state television has temporarily banned all commercials, calling advertisements "a source of irritation and disappointment", officials said yesterday.

Directors of Russia's huge state network, Ostankino, said television should be an instrument for accord and agreement in society, and that advertisements would be

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Van Miert: waive his diplomatic immunity

Belgian 'bribe' search

BY GEORGE BROCK

THE home and office of Belgium's European Union Commissioner have been searched by police investigating allegations that bribes were paid to Belgian political parties to persuade the Government to buy Italian military helicopters.

Karel van Miert, the Commissioner for Competition Policy, waived his diplomatic immunity and allowed police to search his Commission office and home. A small number of papers were taken from his home. Miert was President of the Flemish Socialists in 1988 when bribes were allegedly paid for the purchase of 46 helicopters by the Belgian Army. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Police also want to interview Willy Claes, the No. 2 Secretary-General, who was Belgian Minister for Economic Affairs in 1988. He has denied any knowledge of bribery. Several alleged addressees were arrested last week.

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The Royal College Surgeons of England

The spouse who sacrifices a high-flying career to care for husband and home deserves her half of the pension

Paying for the pleasure of a wife

IT IS evening. The City is nervous. The roads bad. The trains late. Two captains of industry, stress-lined deep in their chalking faces, arrive at their respective homes. Coming through the front door, one of them finds order, the smell of wholesome food, cheerful children and a gin and tonic to drink while wandering round the garden in the perfumed dusk.

The other one has to kick the swollen front door open, pick up the milk bottles, deposit them beside the sinkful of reeking cereal bowls from breakfast and stare at a note saying "Mrs M. has flu. Anneliese's half-day so please fetch kids from Janet's by 7 'cos she's going out. I'll be late, design meeting. Will pick up pizza". The lonely figure sorts gloomily through the post on the mat, noting that the washing machine man called but nobody was in, and trudges off into the night to collect a brace of tired, fractious children from the neighbour.

Which executive, do you suppose, arrives in the office next day best

prepared to nuke the opposition and lead from the front? The first (note how carefully I have not committed myself to gender) is reasonably likely to turn up dapper and spry as befits a corporate kick-boxer.

The second will bring a crumpled shirt-front, a scrawled list of potential cleaning ladies' telephone numbers, and a carrier bag containing a defective Star Trek toy to be exchanged at Hamleys. Alternatively, having refused to bear any of the above burdens, he or she will bring an earful of marital discord and a splitting headache.

What I am trying to say is that spouses (oh, all right, women: reverse the genders yourself) who sacrifice their careers in marriage do, indeed, earn their half of the pension. God bless the rebel Lords

who forced the Government to recognise this on Monday. Power to their noble elbows.

I never expected to say this. In the idealistic Seventies we honestly thought the problem would end with our mothers' generation, because henceforth all decent husbands would take half the domestic load, so their wives could go out and earn their own pension. Life, alas, has brought us low and taught us better. We now see that every high-flying career needs a domestic support system. Not only do men dream of having a traditional wife, women do as well.

It is a truth universally acknowledged that every working mother needs a wife.



LIBBY PURVES

A proper wife, by which I do not necessarily mean one who does not paid work at all: she may have something, but she firmly puts it second. Preferably it is part-time or portable anyway. She will relocate good-humouredly to Newcastle or Mannheim, entertain your colleagues and take time off with a sick child. Her own work is not stressful, so she has stress-bearing capacity to spare. In our dreams!

Everyone with a demanding career (except the odd committed loner) fantasises about coming home to order and harmony, to a home life maintained not by sullen and unreliable hirelings but by committed love. We dream of

somebody to care about our clothes and our diet, to run our children's lives with affectionate discipline: of a house which is fully inhabited. The kind which can have a dog.

The dog thing is symptomatic: there was a report recently that the canine population is dropping as two-career families turn to cats, which fit in better with empty houses and busy lives. All very well if you prefer cats as I do; but think of the stress on natural dog-lovers. Such types look to their pets for uncritical adoration, intense sociableness and obedient anxiety to please: if they are being forced to make do with the aloof, jeering insubordination of cats, no wonder the poor devils end up with their self-respect in tatters and can't punch their way out of recession.

No, careers run smoother when the hearth is harmonious. Life in the home of two parents who are equally pressured, earning equal pensions, is frankly hell on wheels. Ageing male opponents of the new deal will grumble that their ex-wives were spendthrift neurotics who did their career no good at all. More fool they for marrying them. I say.

ANYWAY, lots of them will be lying. Even the least energetic wives contribute something, if only an ability to listen to someone else's hellish day without the constant need to break in and cap it with a description of their own. The idle woman I ever met was treasured by her husband. "Just looking at her relaxes me," he says. "A bit like having tropical fish."

Since I am aware that my husband often finds me more like a tangle of piranhas, I respect his point of view. The perfect spouse is not only Marjorie, but Mary, too. Give 'em the money.



Zeffirelli: he laments today's lack of artistic genius for future generations to look back on. "We leave behind a desert. This disquiets me deeply."

Age cannot wither him

Franco Zeffirelli — in London to edit his latest film, *Jane Eyre* — talks to Dalya Alberge about his two mistresses and his beloved dogs

As a child of eight in Florence, Franco Zeffirelli, the film and opera director, used to be followed on the way to school by a woman, who would mutter at him: "Bastardino, little bastard, you little bastard. You'll find out. Don't worry, some day you'll find out." Her shadow seems to have followed him for most of his 72 years: there is an unmistakable sadness in his otherwise powerful face. Zeffirelli was born out of wedlock in an age when illegitimacy was a scandal. His mother and father were married to different people. The woman who housed him was his father's wife. He was a child who was mocked at school. It was a scandal fuelled by the fact that his mother was a prominent courtesier in Florence. His father was a businessman, an importer.

For Zeffirelli, the pain has not been eased with the passing of decades or the experience of facing a firing-squad during the war, as a partisan fighting the Fascists. Nor has it been relieved by worldwide critical acclaim for his work — operas such as *Tosca* with Maria Callas and *Tito Gobbi*, and films such as *The Taming of the Shrew* with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. Zeffirelli cannot forget his beginnings: twice in our short conversation he repeats that his mother refused to abort him. That explains the passion with which he talks about abortion, "that tragic word". "Abortion is the strongest shame of the human race. There is nothing more important than protecting human life from the very beginning." In 1993, he called for the death penalty to be brought back for women who have abortions.

He has never married; for some, he says quietly staring down at the floor, that is his destiny. At the age of six, his mother died and he was brought up by a succession of different women, including a distant cousin of his father. "Every time I offered love to one of these women, I was forced to take it

back and give it to another. Soon I stopped looking for affection and became very uncommunicative emotionally. I still have difficulty in trusting love when it is offered." He talks instead of his two mistresses — opera and film. When he is involved with one, he misses the other. Only his Jack Russells can compete. He has seven of them, all with English names like Dolly and Jeremy. It is because of them — or rather, our quarantine laws — that he does not buy a house here, though he spends much of the year in London. Instead, he rents a tiny Georgian house in South Kensington. Only videos of *Jesus of Nazareth*, in which he directed Robert Powell and Laurence Olivier, and a couple of massive television sets give the flimsiest of clues to the occupier.

"*Jane Eyre* has been the dearest period of my life," he says suddenly. Just as he seems to be changing the subject to the reason he is in London at the moment — finishing the film by April in time for a release in the summer — he adds: "I was very lonely without my dogs." He bemoans the "four solid months" he has been away from them. "Really awful."

He is presently immersed in editing *Jane Eyre*. The irony that the £10 million picture is being made in Britain without British investment does not escape him. "The money comes from Italy. It's being shot here, using English actors, English studios, English hotels, English technicians, but the

English have put very little money in it." He talks in a heavy accent that crushes the words: when he says "length" it sounds like "land".

His is the fourth *Jane Eyre* to have been brought to the screen. The most famous was the 1943 version with Orson Welles and Joan Fontaine. He smarts when asked how his interpretation differs, saying that you cannot make comparisons. "You can make 200,000 versions of *Romeo and Juliet* but they will never be the same," says Zeffirelli, whose passionately passionate film of 1968 starred Olivia Hussey and Leonard Whiting at the ages of just 15 and 17.

He is, he explains, trying to be faithful to the heart and mind of Charlotte Brontë, though "everything, when you adapt a novel of that quality and value, cries out for the medium for which it was created". If anything, he has sought primarily to bring out the modernity of the novel. "It is a completely unsurpassed modern novel. It could happen today, except for the horrors of the day, such as the way they treated children. But this girl is a contemporary approach to woman. That's why the novel has been so successful with generations of women."

Casting *Jane* was hard. "I tried and tested all the girls available. I went through 'undreds.' Eventually, I whittled down the numbers to a dozen. But something was missing from all of them. I needed something different, a dimension." He knew instantly, the

moment he did a test with Charlotte Gainsbourg, that Franco had found his Jane. "She is wonderful. She goes against the rules of the game. She is not particularly good-looking," he says as straightforwardly as if he was complementing her. "She doesn't give anything except what matters. Her performance is quite unforgettable." Of William Hurt, who plays Rochester, he speaks of this being the best performance of his career.

Observing the way that standards have fallen in the past 30 years, Zeffirelli laments the absence of giants such as Burton. "It is like many other things about culture. Why are there no great painters? It is a fallow period. We leave behind a desert. In generations, people will ask what happened between 1980 and 2000. Nothing happened. This disquiets me deeply."

He talks too with passion about cruelty to animals: as a politician — he became a senator in Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party last March — he is campaigning for their rights. "Life is life, whether human or animal. My motto is Leonardo's famous line, that the day will come when the killing of an animal will be punished by the law with the same severity now accorded to the killer of a man."

Zeffirelli feels as strongly about society's emphasis on youth. He seeks to bridge the divide between young and old. Yet society dismisses the older generation, he says. "I don't say that because I'm in that age bracket. I do now the best work in my life. I'm mature. I have a harmony in my mind, in my spirit. I know what's right and wrong better than I did ages ago."

Indeed, he ranks *Jane Eyre* as one of his most powerful films. "I wouldn't have done *Jane Eyre* 20 years ago. I needed more exciting stories. This is a deep, intense story. There is nothing except these characters — magnificent, modern characters."

Has this man unlocked the secrets of happy marriage?

Dr Jack Dominian believes he has produced a blueprint for wedded bliss, writes Julia Llewellyn Smith

Dr Jack Dominian was 21 and climbing Worcester's Beacon when he fell "romantically in love" with Edith, who was to become his wife. Why do you say "romantically"? I ask Dr Dominian. For most people, the phrase "to fall in love" would be enough. "I mean I fell in love in the intuitive sense," he explains impatiently. "I fell in love instantly, which is romantic. Otherwise, you fall in love gradually, which is gradual."

Dr Dominian likes to categorise things: to sort the thorny mysteries of love and marriage into neat subsets. And once his findings are classed into diagrams and tables, he uses them to produce a blueprint for what makes the perfect marriage.

For nearly 25 years, his mission, as the founder of the charity One plus One, has been to investigate not why couples divorce, but why they stay together. Last year, he was appointed MBE for his services to the institution; now he has published his findings in *Marriage*, billed rather ambitiously by his publishers as *The Definitive Guide to What Makes a Marriage Work*.

In case we wonder what makes Dr Dominian, 64, so qualified, we can inspect his record: educated at Cambridge and Oxford, a senior consultant psychiatrist since 1965, 15 books (with titles such as *Christian Marriage*) and, most importantly, a 40-year marriage to Edith, by whom he has four daughters ("two married, two cohabiting"). Edith, in sensible black skirt and cardigan, with hair in a bun, answers the front door of their comfortable home in Rickmansworth, a leafy Hertfordshire suburb. She is smiling and friendly, which is more than can be said for her husband, who reluctantly comes downstairs. "I don't like publicity very much," he says, in a guttural accent (he was born in Greece and learnt English during the war in India). "I like writing books."

Nonetheless, he needs the publicity, not only for himself but for his organisation which, he claims, is woefully underfunded. "All we are putting in [to marriage-related charities] is two to three million pounds." Meanwhile, says Dr Dominian, 40 per cent of British marriages end in divorce, costing the taxpayer "at least" £3 billion a year, in terms of social security, police, court and prison expenses, lost production and NHS costs.

His book produces statistics to show that children whose parents stay together — however miserably — stand a greater chance of happiness than those whose parents split up. Dr Dominian is a case in point; he describes his parents'

marriage as "turbulent", yet only death parted them. But his criterion for happiness is that the children do not divorce, either, which assumes that marriage alone is the key to fulfilment.

"It is," says Dr Dominian. "There are only two things in life which give us the majority of our contentment. One is work and one is marriage, and I would rate marriage life as the most important. It fulfils a certain number of basic human needs: attachment, holding, intimacy, love, sex. There's no other institution that can make 'compe-

Remembering "the fruit of loving" is at the heart of much of his advice, which, though sincere, can be irritatingly ingenuous. Take, for example, his advice on dealing with a spouse with an "anxious" (ie, possessive) personality. "You must try to be as reliable, predictable and punctual" as possible and then is "time point" to "stop" becoming "excessively" involved with another person.

Dr Dominian's intention is that we should be taught such "practical" advice. His personal relationship educational programme is on a CD-ROM. "We



Dr Dominian and Edith: 40 happy years together

hensive provision for all of this."

So why is the institution crumbling? Dr Dominian blames women's lib for blurring the traditional duties of man as breadwinner and woman as housewife. "Once marriage was a contract of social roles. Now we expect much greater emotional and sexual fulfilment. We want egalitarian, loving relationships, and this is not in itself a bad thing. We just don't know how to develop it."

Modern couples try and fail to sustain the passionate intensity that fuelled the early days of their relationship. This, according to Dr Dominian, is a mistake — they should instead be looking at a "companionate" model of marriage, in which commitment and intimacy coexist without passion. Sex is not very important in Dr Dominian's scheme of things. "The frequency of the sexual act undoubtedly drops," he says. "What I would like to stress is the quality of each act: it's the fruit of loving."

take a lot of trouble learning to drive a car. We have to take a lot of trouble learning about contemporary marriage. We have to take it much more seriously and learn that when problems come we will have to work at them."

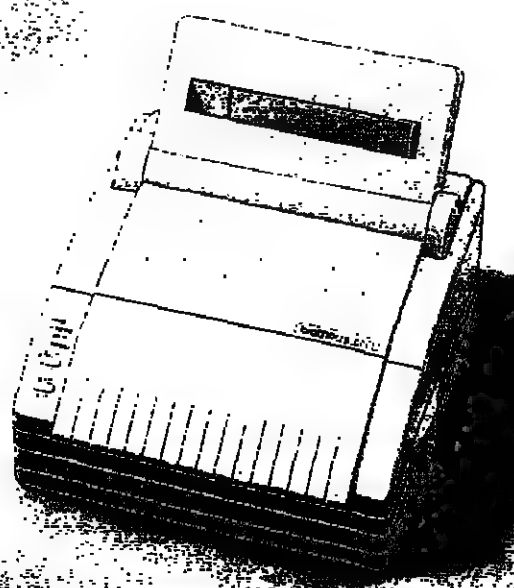
His blueprint for a happy marriage is to have similar backgrounds, education and interests. He and Edith met at a conference for Catholic students and he is at pains to remind me that she, too, is a graduate. "She worked for us a little bit at the beginning," he says, "but now she works mainly at home."

All Dr Dominian's research is very commendable, but aren't his conclusions a bit idealistic? He thinks not. "People are not promiscuous. We are shaped for love from the moment we are born. We want to recapture that bond with our mother from the cradle to the grave."

You're an optimist, aren't you, I say. "Yes," he replies. "Yes, I am," and his face, which has so far been emotionless, lights up with the sweetest of smiles.

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More than 30 British designers feature in a catalogue which offers haute couture by post

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CAROLINE CHARLES: silk vest, £211; skirt, £252; scarf, £105



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Above: JASPER CONRAN: Short black crepe halter-neck corset-front dress, £278
Centre: BEN DE LISI: Ivory crepe tunic, £208; Ivory seersucker bias-cut skirt, £169.
Photographs by LORD LICHFIELD and JOHN SWANNELL

In 1993, Andrew and Patricia Davidson placed an advertisement for Kingshill, their newly formed mail-order company in *Harpers & Queen*. Within two weeks the couple were inundated with 5,000 replies from women all over Britain requesting their catalogue which promised designer fashion by post. "We wanted to offer something special by mail order," Mrs Davidson says. "Brand label designer clothes were never previously available in such a way."

What began with just three designers — Caroline Charles, Amanda Wakeley and Paul Costelloe — was the first to sign up for the venture — has grown apace. There are now two catalogues each season, *The British Designer Collections* and *Diffusion*, which between them feature more than 30 designers.

The latest addition to the designer catalogue is Jasper Conran, who joins a formidable cross-section of British fashion talent, from John Rocha to Jean Muir, Betty Jackson to Bellville Sassoon, Shirin Cashmere to Tomasz Starzewski. The *Diffusion* range is equally comprehensive: Jaeger London, Benny Ong, Whistles, John Smedley, Fenn Wright & Manson, and Ally Capellino Hearts of Oak are among those included. Even though the individual styles of the featured designers may appear disparate, the Davidsons have chosen looks from each, which not only complement each other, but together cover every possible wardrobe panic.

In the Designer catalogue, Amanda Wakeley's gorgeous separates are perfect for indulgent weekends, as are Shirin Cashmere's slinky knits. John Rocha, Joseph and Betty Jackson provide easy looks with a

fashion accent, while Caroline Charles, Jean Muir, Roland Klein and Paul Costelloe offer their own brand of sophisticated classics. English Eccentrics and Georgina von Etzdorf are famous for their plush, printed fabrics. Kingshill has everything from the outdoorsy style of Mulberry to the unabashed glamour of Bellville Sassoon.

Originally Mrs Davidson approached the designers to create outfits especially for the mail order market, but soon realised that her clientele appreciated the real thing. "We now sell 100 per cent main collections," she says.

Not surprisingly, these clothes do not come cheap. Yet the obvious success of Kingshill undoubtedly proves that the mail-order business is not purely the province of the bargain hunter.

"We offer what is good in fashion, straight from catwalk to catalogue," Mrs Davidson says.

However, whereas buying a T-shirt or pair of stretch leggings by mail is painless, the idea of ordering a Sassoon ballgown, a sleek Paddy Campbell suit or a Ben de Lisi cocktail dress does appear more complex. "There are women who know they are a Jean Muir size ten, while others will try three or four designers and then just return what isn't right," Mrs Davidson says. "We have a remarkably low number of returns when you consider what they're spending."

Roland Klein says that women should be kind to themselves by being honest about their size when it comes to ordering. "Everyone wishes they were slimmer, but it's best to order the true size. It is better to buy a size larger and have it altered than to squeeze into a size smaller. The clothes do have to be fairly simple and straightforward."

Ben de Lisi agrees. "My clothes sell well from the catalogue because they are devoid of superfluous detail. What you see is what you get." Shopping with Kingshill, by post, telephone or fax, certainly provides a less stressful way to buy designer fashion. The upmarket stores can be forbidding places for even the most confident shopper. It is also more convenient. "By simply making a phone call you can try things on without the fear of anybody watching you do it," Mrs Davidson says.

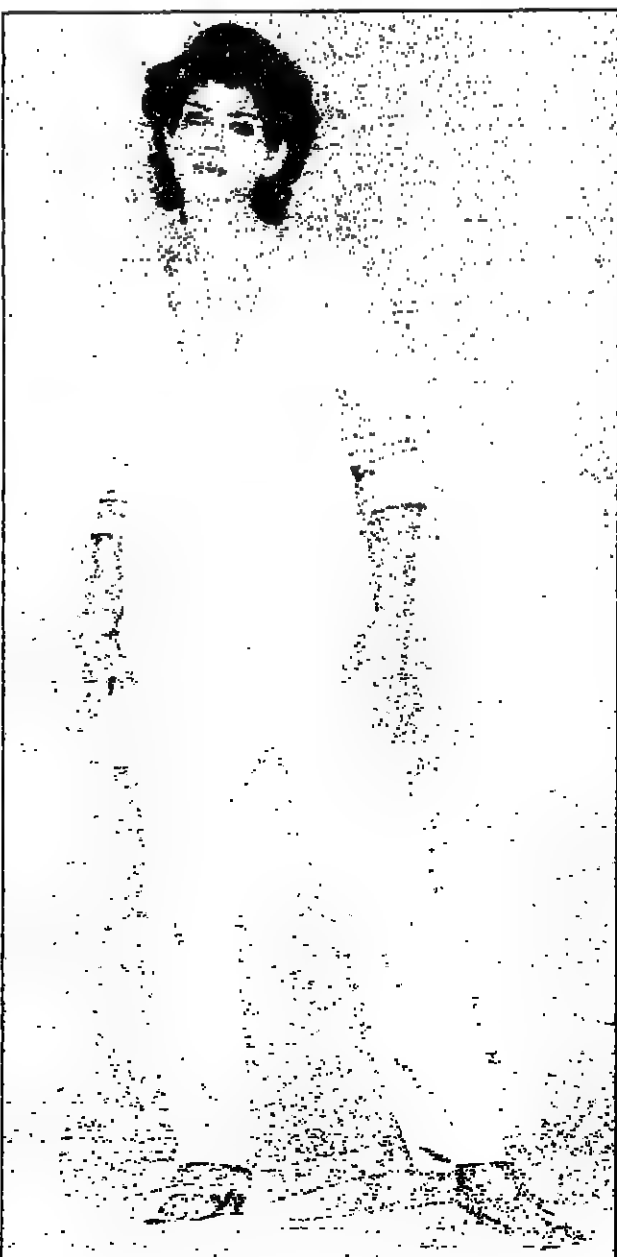
This is an area designers are keen to explore. Owning a shop may win kudos but it has a limited appeal — relying on passing trade or regular custom, while an outfit appearing on the page can go virtually anywhere.

"We're able to show an investment piece like a jacket in three or four different styles, by as many designers, and with as many ways of wearing it, all in the same catalogue," Mrs Davidson says. In this, the Kingshill catalogue works much like a magazine. It even introduces the new season and explains the new mood in an editorial-style foreword.

"I want to offer more information about the clothes," Mrs Davidson says. "It is difficult for women to understand fashion when they see it on the catwalk."

There is nothing confusing about Kingshill. The catalogue provides a concisely edited collection of designer looks — a catwalk full of possibilities in the comfort of your own home.

All clothes available from Kingshill mail order catalogue, The British Collection, 15: Diffusion Collection, £2.50. Tel: 01494 590555 or Fax: 01494 566003.



AMANDA WAKELEY: cashmere/silk tunic, £395; pants, £273

HOTLINE

PUT SMOKING Out of Fashion is a new advertising campaign aimed at those in the image industry. Fashion designers are giving it their support during London Fashion Week. The first two readers to reply to *The Times* Fashion Dept, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN can see for themselves Helen Storey's interpretation of the campaign, with two tickets to her show at 8.30pm on March 11.

AMONG London shops opening this month is Prada at 44/45 Sloane Street, London SW1. A short bus ride away at 79 Elizabeth Street, London W1 is the jeweller Reema Pachachi's new shop. Known for her work with semi-precious stones and covetable pieces in silver and gold, prices are from £35 and bespoke commissions are welcomed.

LIBERTY is confident of further success for Reynold Pearce and Andrew Flonda, whose first collection last October was highly praised. The London department store is sponsoring Pearce Flonda's autumn/winter catwalk show which will be shown next month in-store.

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■ Something missing? We'll soon sketch in something suitably inept

In what I hold to be perhaps the most engaging picture ever painted by an Englishman, Mrs Andrews isn't holding anything at all. She is perched on an iron bench against which her new huddle is possessively clinging, the fabled sweep of their smug prosperity rolling bucolically beyond, with her lapped hands clearly in the holding position, but empty.

That is because Thomas Gainsborough did not finish the job, ever since when critics have been fretting over what she would have been holding if he had; but while a solid body of opinion insists that it would have been the solid body of a pheasant, this is by no means certain, and it is that very uncertainty which is so engaging. For Gainsborough was ever a sly cryptographer, and it is not impossible that Mrs Andrews might have wound up holding a bottle of gin, or a catapult, or a slide trombone, with all that these implied, and since I relish the boundless speculation that the artist, wily-nilly, has left us, you will appreciate my irritation at the thought that if the BBC got its hands on the picture, Mrs Andrews would be holding either a horse-pistol to forestall her husband's having his way with her, or a letter from a well-wisher revealing that, if push came literally to shove, he would rather have his way with the Blue Boy, anyhow. That is because the BBC has, as you know, a mission to explain.

Sunday viewers will twig that we have now fetched up at *The Buccaneers*, a novel left so unfinished by Edith Wharton as to have given the BBC no option but to fall upon it and explain it to the last squeak and glibber, thereby depriving this ham-fisted minor work of any subtlety it might have derived from being unfathomable. Furthermore, by doing what its script department is bad at, the BBC has subverted what its costume department is good at. *The Buccaneers* is about soft furnishings: it is about the soft furnishings you find in big houses and the even softer furnishings you find on big women, and the proper pleasure to be derived from the farrago is vested exclusively in these: the last distraction any of us needs is a spatchcock plot so convoluted as to leave the brain rolling around in the head like a marble in a soup-plate.

Unless, of course, we were encouraged to convolute things for ourselves. I see that you are there before me, but were you also there before me when we first heard that the BBC was to bring an unfinished Edith Wharton novel to the screen, especially as neither of us knew, admit it, quite how unfinished it might be? Did you, that is, cry out: "Wow! At last, a major breakthrough, they are doing an unfinished costume serial, ace, brilliant, it is not like *Chuzzlewit*, it is not like *Middlemarch*, we shall not have to sit there week after worthy week while an over-familiar narrative plods to its known end, affording only such scant flippings as the anachronistic glimpse of a Yale scutcheon or a capped incisor, we shall instead become a part of the unfinished whole, we shall be plunged into the interactive hurly-burly, we shall be left to imagine, to speculate, to work things out for ourselves, to argue with our loved ones and workmates and dinner guests, we shall be encouraged to interfere in a classic work in order to create our own, we shall all be Tom Stoppards!"

I know that that is what I cried out, which is why I am so bitterly disappointed that the BBC should have thrown so golden an opportunity so wantonly away. Not only would the enterprise have been enormous fun in itself, it would have generated innumerable collateral rewards to the hard-pressed Beeb: think, if nothing else, of the myriad capitalizing sequels a nationwide viewers' big cash prizes competition might have brought, particularly if the entrants were required to conform to the ideological recommendations of the Programme Strategy Review, oh, look, Lizzy has married Raio C. Nesbitt, Sir Helmsley Thwaite has run off with Lenny Henry, the Dowager Duchess of Trevenick is leading a march of differently-abled Grouse Rights activists on Castle Howard...

It is not too late, if the BBC would only chuck away the remaining two episodes and leave it to us, its flagging fortunes might yet be restored.



Squaring Ulster's circle

So far, the Northern Ireland gamble is paying off despite the odds — but Major should trust to local government

I was wrong in December 1993 about John Major's Ulster initiative. He has achieved more in a year of patient but intensive diplomacy than any of his predecessors in a quarter of a century. The gambit of enlisting the IRA into a ceasefire, without inducing an upsurge in Unionist violence, has worked for longer than anyone expected. The entrapment of Dublin politicians in the Ulster morass has been achieved. All who dismissed the 1993 Downing Street declaration as the work of naïve ingenuities must eat at least some of their words. Mr Major may be an ingenu, but he has given Ulster a taste of peace, a glimpse of what could be. He deserves congratulation.

That was not "the easy part": it was difficult. But it was nothing like as difficult as what happens now. Today's publication of the framework document and devolution plan for the Province reopens the question that has lain on the table at Stormont since 1972. How can you marry Catholic aspirations to Unionist insecurities? The document, for all its razzle, is merely yet another consultation proposal, the latest of dozens of such proposals. The circle is not squared. True there is a nip of peace in the air: the two sides have played football in no man's land for a year. But who can tell when or whether they will return to their trenches?

The question for the sceptics of '93 is whether to tear up their gloomy predictions and join the Downing Street cheering, or whether to stick it out, joining Conor Cruise O'Brien at the end of the bar. On this page yesterday, Dr O'Brien invited us to have another wall. He pointed out, as he has been doing for much of his life, that there is an unbridgeable cultural divide separating Catholics from Unionists in Northern Ireland. The Catholics want some formal link with the South and have fought for it for 75 years. The Unionists want no such link and have fought against it for 75 years. You can have declarations, agreements, frameworks, even treaties: they are so much Irish mist. As for the idea of "solving Northern Ireland" by interminable negotiation between Dublin and London, says Dr O'Brien, "that can lead nowhere except to a renewal of the conflict."

I have long been a signed-up member of the O'Brien persuasion. But I feel Mr Major's actions over the past year at least give him the right to be heard. His strategy is intriguing, some would say

cunning. The British Government's goal, we must never forget, is to get rid of Northern Ireland. It is to be shot of those whey-faced fanatics who sit unsmiling on the benches of the House of Commons, ghostly reminders of the days of woad, religious wars and the gremlins of the bog. It is to be rid of the killings and bombings, of the cost of the emergency powers and security and the sickening publicity that goes with suppressing internal terrorism. If British ministers had their way, the "demographic timebomb" in Ulster would be advanced by every means. Unionists would be bribed to emigrate; birth control for Catholics would be banned.

Students of Anglo-Irish documents know the pattern well. Both the 1985 and 1993 initiatives were devoid of British "claims" to Northern Ireland. In 1985, any economic or other sovereignty was renounced. The only tie to Britain was the balloted wish of the majority of the population. (How unlike Mr Major's devotion to the union with Scotland, any injury to which would be a "catastrophe".) By 1993, the British Government was ready to encourage Unionists to see the virtues of an "all-Ireland" future. Existing cross-border security and economic development institutions are expected to blossom into cross-border just-about-everything.

This is almost as if the IRA had stolen John Major's clothes, rather than the other way round. So a bunch of hoodlums happen to have the same policy as Her Majesty's Government? Even sinners are welcome to a good cause. Mr Major's tactic is to produce a framework document so favourable to an all-Ireland authority that the IRA will hand over its arsenal and talk amicably to Ian Paisley. Pigs have flown, and IRA discipline appears to be holding. If only because Gerry Adams has, as yet, won more than his wildest dreams. He must be threatened by jealous militants, who

have little to gain from any peace in Northern Ireland, and the pickings of gangsterism to lose. But that was always Mr Major's gamble.

It is not half as tight as his gamble with the Unionists. Here Mr Major hopes that the seduction of peace will induce everyone, not least the former paramilitaries, to talk about anything rather than revert to the gun. The trick is to promise nothing that might activate a Unionist veto, to move forward by stealth, to give "North-South" every sustenance short of sovereignty. There is a cross-border executive, but under an umbrella authority to which the states donate sovereignty separately. There are tiers and vetoes and locking devices. But with no surrender of formal sovereignty there should be no cause for a Unionist veto.

And then there is Stormont, a new "administrative assembly" in which through the Unionists will have the longest snouts. Get a devolved assembly established, says the British Government, link it with the new North-South body and the resulting organism may possibly germinate its own Irish character. The Unionists may not like to share power in this assembly with Catholics, but the alternative they would like even less: yet more consorting between London and Dublin. Meanwhile the demographic clock ticks on. Ulster is running out of Protestants.

So far so good for Mr Major's strategy. But at this point I start to shift uneasily down the bar in the direction of Dr O'Brien. Just how much of this can the Unionists stand before they start storming out? Remember, storming out is the war-dance of the Ulster politician. He may or may not put up with some diluted version of the North-South framework. That framework is mostly fudge. But the assembly is real. It lies at the heart of Mr

Major's Ulster settlement. It is to run the Province, on the basis of sharing power between all the parties on all its committees. The spoils are to be spread. The old days are back.

The old days were awful. Regional power-sharing is fool's gold. It has never worked at Stormont, despite being tried twice since 1972. As power-sharing will also form the basis for executive participation in the North-South bodies, the opportunities for storming out will be legion. This assembly — politicians and officials alike — is even supposed to be seeking the "harmonisation" of Irish policy on health, schools, social security, trade and industry. I cannot think of a more certain recipe for trouble.

The assembly will have a Unionist majority. This majority is bound to seek to impose its will on the one-third of the Province that has, under Westminster direct rule, begun to develop a republican character, notably Armagh, Derry, and West of the Bann. Across the 26 local districts of Northern Ireland, a new political culture has grown up, ideally placed to capitalise on peace. Had the Government had the courage to delegate executive powers to these districts or to a reformed six counties plus Derry and Belfast, with no regional assembly, a different settlement might have been hatched. Cautiousness has suited divided communities across Europe, in Belgium and Switzerland. But that would have meant a role for local government in Ulster, and Mr Major hates local government.

So he will try Stormont again: failed, cantankerous, meddling Stormont. This will be in addition to a North-South body, in addition to a myriad Anglo-Irish councils and London-Dublin summits, cross-border authorities and joint parliamentary gatherings. Tiny Ulster is to have government coming out of its ears. The hope is that such political overkill will render unthinkable a return to the gun and the bomb. I wonder.

Perhaps renewed conflict will be partial and spasmodic. Perhaps the new institutions will partly work, as direct rule stumbled on into another decade. These are all gambles, and if we are gambling, I would go with small-is-beautiful, with reviving Northern Ireland's tribally mixed local councils, rather than its unitary Stormont. But that is a gamble that ill suits the centralist culture of our times. So with a heavy heart, I must buy Dr O'Brien another drink.

Simon Jenkins

Trouble in store

HARRODS has another lawsuit on its hands. The Knightsbridge store, which on Monday lost sundry goods worth nearly £130,000 to bailiffs acting for a prep school called the Harroddian, is being sued by a firm of estate agents.

The Harroddian's bailiffs called to collect court costs after Harrods failed in the High Court to ban the school from using its name. Now Savills, the Mayfair-based estate agent, claims it is owed £60,000 in unpaid fees by the department store. A High Court writ has been issued.

This second dispute also involves the Harroddian School, built on a 20-acre site sold by Harrods in 1993. Savills claims it found the buyer of the site, and is therefore due a fee. Harrods retorts that this is nonsense and refuses to cough up.

Savills refused to comment yesterday, but the estate agent was appointed to sell the property by Harrods in 1989. The department store says it retained Savills until April 1991, and accepted an offer for the site 20 months later, in January 1993.

Yesterday both sides were awaiting a court hearing. But I

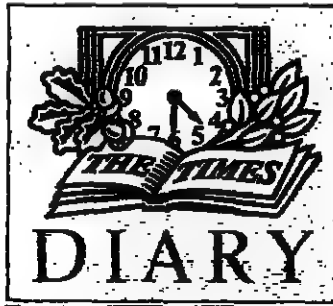
understand that Mohamed Al Fayed, Harrods' owner, is reconsidering the land agents who look after his country estates in Surrey and Scotland. Both are currently managed by Savills.

● *Madonna had wind-machine trouble at the Brit awards on Monday night. The waist-length wig she sported to such effect on stage was so blown about that she was in danger of choking on her own tresses. Only frantic hand movements saved the day.*

Hosepipe ban

LET US hope that the fire sprinklers at Dorneywood, Kenneth Clarke's official country residence, are in good working order. Buckinghamshire County Council wants to close the fire station in Burnham, the local village. Cost-cutting as a result of the Treasury's stricture is to blame.

The council meets for a final vote on the matter tomorrow, but official committees are advising that closure of the 200-year-old station is the only course. "We have a 3,500-strong petition and intend to write to the Chancellor," says par-



ish council chairman Ken Dolan. "The service is vital." For cost-cutting Clarke too if he carries on with his cigars.

● *London's Number 12 bus route receives the award for Best Route with Conductors today from the public transport watchdog London Regional Passengers Committee. Could this have anything to do with the fact that Steven Norris, the Transport Minister, is one of the "dreadful human beings" who uses it?*

Italian job

SADDER and wiser, the Church of England's man in Sicily has left the island and vowed never to return, after a violent brush with some of those he had hoped to convert. The Rev Derek Payne, 65, had been chaplain of the Holy

Cross Church in Palermo for just three weeks when, returning home after a quiet dinner in the city centre, two aspiring young Mafiosi robbed him of his wallet at gunpoint.

"I am shaken and shocked after what has happened, and will be seeing my doctor for a check-up when I get home," he says. "I will not be returning to the island ever again."

Last night Payne advised any successor to the post, which will be filled by the Church of England's diocese in Europe, to "carry no cash, and stay off the streets after twilight".

As Payne prepared to leave the island for ever, Salvatore "Toto"

Riina, the alleged Mafia super-boss, went on trial charged with ordering the murder in 1992 of Judge Giovanni Falcone.

Payne admits that he had little success during his short stay in converting Sicilians to the Anglican faith. "It is a bit of an uphill struggle when most are with the Mafia or else devout Roman Catholics."

On one's bike

THE PRINCE OF WALES has espoused another green issue: bicycling. Next month he will host a reception at St James's Palace to promote plans for a 5,000-mile national cyclepath network.

His Royal Highness has once or twice abandoned the Aston Martin for a bike, particularly at Sandringham and Balmoral. But it is seldom a pretty sight. Most commonly with sons in tow and slightly wobbly, he ventures out on a mountain bike which is too small. "Ungainly. Not really what you'd expect of a future king," says one retainer.

But Sustrans, the charity behind the network, is dewy-eyed over the prospect of a bicycling monarch: "He's got a fine sense of balance."



P-H-S



A policy based on envy

Labour is wrong to attack a deserved bonus, says James Bartholomew

To be honest, there is no salary of which we all wholeheartedly approve except one lower than our own. That is why most of us will not particularly enjoy the thought of Lord Alexander — a man whose very name shows him to be particularly successful already — receiving a bonus of about £100,000 for his work as chairman of National Westminster Bank.

Remuneration higher than our own is thoroughly upsetting. Worse than that, it is insulting. It suggests that some other chap is more highly valued than we are ourselves. If you and I were joint dictators of Britain, we could agree that salaries higher than our own would be illegal. Perhaps punishable by some horrible torture. And frankly I would prefer it if my salary could be just that little bit higher than yours.

So I can well understand that Mr Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, is infuriated by the pay of Lord Alexander. And Mr Brown has an extra reason for being outraged: politically Mr Brown has already done well out of such anger. He has been successfully disgusted at the pay packages of water company bosses. He has been triumphantly appalled by the awesome salary of Cedric Brown, the chief executive of British Gas. And as a result of his repeated shows of revulsion he has found himself winning debates on radio and television.

In verbal combat, the defenders of capitalism have found it difficult to explain why a water company executive previously happy to work in the state sector for, say, £50,000 should become worth £150,000 after privatisation.

But in picking on the £100,000 payment to Lord Alexander, Gordon Brown has gone a bonus too far. He does not seem to have noticed that the noble lord is not employed by one of the privatised monopolies. Banking is a competitive and thoroughly difficult business. In the course of the latest recession, the major banks lost billions of pounds. They lost too freely in the good times to businesses which were not able to survive the inevitable downturn. National Westminster was one of these banks.

The survival of NatWest was never in doubt, but it did manage to suffer bad debts of £1.8 billion in a single year, 1991. It was particularly embarrassed by the troubles at Blue Arrow, and this led to the premature resignation of the previous chairman, Lord Boardman. NatWest needed someone at the top who could put it back on course. After all, there is the little matter of NatWest having millions of depositors. The safety of their money is a legitimate matter of concern.

Lord Alexander has previously been an unusually successful barrister, capable of earning sums which would make Mr Brown positively weep with envy. He has never revealed his income before he joined NatWest, but it seems most likely that he took a pay cut in order to become chairman of NatWest. And he took on much else besides the recession.

Banking has been changing in recent years faster than at any time this century. The economics of branch banking have gone awry. The costs have risen faster than the income. It has been necessary to close large numbers of branches and sack thousands of staff. There has been growing price competition from postal banking. In the high street, there has been competition from building societies. The technology of banking has been changing. NatWest is currently experimenting with television banking.

Politically, the banks have never been out of the firing line. They have been under attack for lending too freely and for not lending sufficiently, for making too much money out of small businesses and for losing too much money by lending to small businesses.

In the face of these and other difficulties, NatWest announced pre-tax profits yesterday of £1.6 billion. No one, least of all Lord Alexander, would pretend that this turnaround is all down to him. But he played a part in it. And you might think that if ever a businessman was entitled to a bonus it was in a case like this. He helped to restore the fortunes of the company to the benefit of the people who employ him: the shareholders.

If Mr Brown disapproves even of this, then what exactly is his policy on pay? Does he believe that no businessman should ever get a substantial sum of money? If so, he is attacking the heart of the whole system; if so, he does not understand that incentives, ambition and — yes — greed are what makes capitalism work.

These encourage well-directed effort. They give us reasons to be effective. And that, in a nutshell, is why we in Britain are wealthy while those who lived under the socialist regimes of Eastern Europe were poor.

Does Mr Brown dissent from this? If so, he is not a part of anything that could reasonably call itself "New Labour". Rather, he is indulging his emotions of envy, and puffing them up into a policy. I understand the emotion of envy — I dare say I feel it as strongly as Mr Brown — but envy as an anti-capitalist policy endangers the future prosperity of us all.



PART OF THE PEACE

Today's Ulster document is not the only plan available

The joint framework document on Ulster's future published today by John Major and John Bruton in Belfast will end months of speculation and begin a new process of informed debate. Unionists will claim that the plan represents a step backward in the search for peace; nationalists that it is a step forward, but only the first step. Its success or failure will do much to establish the fate of the peace process.

It is important, however, that the British and Irish Governments do not overburden the document with expectation. The draft version disclosed in *The Times* earlier this month was written in the assured language of a peace treaty. It bore the stamp of officials confident that they have found a definitive formula to solve an ancient problem. This the draft most certainly did not offer. It remains to be seen whether today's final version is indeed the open-minded and consultative document that it needs to be and that the Prime Minister has promised it will be.

But the peace process now exists independently of this single set of proposals. James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionists, yesterday rejected the document as a "UN charter", a straitjacket which his party would never willingly don. That may be so. Unless today's proposals are radically different from the leaked draft, it is hard to see how Mr Molyneux and his supporters can be expected to sign up to them. Yet that need not be the end of the matter.

Perhaps the most significant meeting to be held since the Downing Street declaration of December 1993 was Monday's talks between Mr Molyneux, Ian Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionists, and John Hume, the leader of the nationalist SDLP. "People assume we are daggers drawn, that we never do co-operate," observed Mr Molyneux. Patently, this

assumption is wrong. The leaders of the three main constitutional parties in the North may not agree on the merits of Mr Major's approach but all are now committed to peace. They realise that they have an opportunity to resolve the historic differences of the two communities and they seem reluctant to squander it.

Most Unionists, for example, have now accepted the need for some form of power-sharing in Ulster's new administrative assembly. The Protestant community resents the idea of Dublin interfering in the affairs of the Province. But it increasingly acknowledges the need to reflect the nationalist perspective in its governance.

Only the most diehard Unionists resent the idea of flexible cross-border institutions taking their authority from the assembly to co-operate with the South in areas such as tourism. This is considerable progress. Whatever is said about today's document, the general trend towards co-operation and mutual understanding should not be underestimated. It remains highly likely that the Unionists will attend the new talks, if only to put forward their own agenda.

In *The Times* yesterday, Conor Cruise O'Brien argued wisely that "the concept of negotiations between Dublin and London leading to agreement inside Northern Ireland is flawed". Diplomats on the mainland or in the Republic cannot possibly resolve the problems that have bedevilled the North for centuries. One of the gravest errors of Anglo-Irish policy in the past ten years has been the belief that they can. This approach is now redundant. The people of Ulster are, at the very least, to have their own representative forum in which to plan their future. In this sense, today's historic document is the last gesture of the old way of doing things. It is for the citizens of Northern Ireland to decide on the new.

HOME AND ALONE

Reform of the pension rules in divorce is overdue

In the House of Lords last night, Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, the Social Security Minister, accepted that the Government should reconsider the rights of divorced wives to a share in their husbands' pensions. He made this undertaking after a rebellion by Conservative peers. Under present rules a married woman who has devoted most of her adult life to raising a family and running a home can too often find herself in a paupered old age after divorce.

When a married man's job provides him with a pension, the security that it offers for his retirement also covers his wife and — in the event of his death — continues to provide for her old age. A husband's contributions to a pension scheme come out of the household income and are assumed at the time to be providing for the future of both partners. But when a couple divorce, that asset is not counted as part of their joint wealth. The income that was planned for their retirement becomes the sole property of the man.

As a consequence, many divorced women who offered years of practical and emotional support to the men with whom they shared an affluent lifestyle find themselves left with only a state pension. This is now sometimes justified on the ground that the man's pension is a fair exchange for the matrimonial home which is most often awarded to the wife. In response it is argued that a professional man's pension is often worth more than his home. The real point, however, is not whether a pension is worth more or less than the marital home, but whether the value of both should be taken into account in the apportionment of assets in a divorce, which must always be agreed or decided by the courts case by case.

In a ground-breaking judgment in 1993, the High Court ruled that the pension

scheme of Douglas Brooks should be altered to make provision for his divorced wife. Mr Brooks took that decision to the Court of Appeal which upheld the ruling of the High Court. He is now carrying his fight to the House of Lords where his case will be heard later this year. If the Lords support the findings of the lower courts, a precedent will be set which will doubtless unleash thousands of similar claims.

This is an area of injustice in which the Government should take a lead. It is unfair that a woman who has committed herself to family life on the expectation that her future financial security would be provided for should have no stake in a pension scheme. Even a working wife may have had less opportunity to build up an adequate pension since her employment pattern is more likely to have been disrupted by family responsibilities. It would also be unfair, however, if settlements agreed long in the past were reopened to take account of the new attitude to pensions.

The Government may fear the kind of noisy backlash from middle-class divorced men which the Child Support Agency produced. One way to mitigate such protests would be to avoid the retrospective application of any new rules to arrangements already agreed or settled by the courts. Altering arrangements in such a sensitive area of social policy is bound to be controversial and to create some anomalies in the short term. But the aim of policy should be clear. Men should be discouraged from thinking that they can slough off financial responsibility for their first families through divorce. Any reform that makes divorce more expensive — and thus more unattractive — should be embraced by a Government which supports family life.

STUDENT POWER

There is a new player in Afghanistan's Great Game

An Islamic New Model Army — the Taleban — is now encamped on the outskirts of Kabul, poised to capture the Afghan capital from the forces of President Rabbani. These student-crusaders, who now control a third of Afghanistan, are driven both by an energetic devotion to the Koran and a revulsion for the mujahidin groups who have heaped such ruin on the people of their country. After their recent and spectacular advances, the patchwork peace plan stitched together by a despairing United Nations is now almost as tattered as the country for which it was conceived.

Afghanistan, once the Cold War's emotive theatre, has for some years been left to its own destructive devices. The variety of political and military alliances that have been made and unmade — each new one as mercurial as the last — has bewildered observers just as the carnage has done. Into this tribal charnel house — and obvious that the country has always loathed interference — the UN has attempted from time to time to instigate a settlement. The latest attempt, crafted by the UN's special envoy Mahmood Mestiri, appears ready for an unceremonious burial. It may seem churlish to criticise Mr Mestiri — who should at least earn an honourable mention for his perseverance — but the absence of the Taleban from his list of those entitled to representation on the "interim governing council" meant that the plan had no firm foundation. Yet few could have predicted the meteoric

rise of this army of students. Although the disparate mujahidin groups seem prepared to accept, with the advance of the Taleban, the UN's power-sharing compromise, these groups now have considerably less power to share. The Koranic legions, not surprisingly, are bent on denying any political oxygen to the groups which they regard as "criminal", "locusts", "un-Islamic" and "degenerate" — to use but a few epithets employed by their articulate spokesman, Mullah Boorjani.

Mr Mestiri held talks with the leaders of the Taleban (few of whom are readily identifiable) in an attempt to sign them up for the new council in Kabul. As preconditions, the special envoy's interlocutors demanded control of the capital for their forces, an Islamic government and a restriction of seats on the council to "good Muslims". This last demand is tantamount to a rhetorical rebuff: the Taleban crusade against Mr Rabbani's Government and every other group in the country is predicated on the belief that the land needs to be cleansed at once for the return of a pure Islam.

However unappealing the Taleban — and the prospect of a state run by students of Islamic theology — may be to the West, it is now entirely appropriate for the UN to abandon its present, and obsolete, peace plan for Afghanistan. Just as it is important for the UN to know when to intervene in a civil war, so too is it important for the organisation to know when to retreat. The UN can do nothing, at present, for Kabul.

Jobs growth and a minimum wage

From Mr Denis MacShane, MP for Rotherham (Labour)

Sir, The junior employment minister, Philip Oppenheim, asserts that a minimum wage has a negative effect on the economies of other countries (letter, February 16). He is wrong. Between 1980 and 1990, nine countries with a statutory minimum wage had a higher rate of growth in employment, according to the OECD, than the UK: the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, Spain, Greece, The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Portugal.

Between 1979 and 1993 annual economic growth in the UK was on average 1.7 per cent. This is slower than any other Group of Seven or EU country with a legal minimum wage. Mr Oppenheim refers to the very low level of the United States minimum wage; yet that wage, of £3 an hour (which President Clinton has just proposed raising), would be of very great benefit in my constituency of Rotherham, where wages of £2 an hour are common.

Mr Oppenheim, in a parliamentary answer to me last December, revealed that one manual worker in six earns £150 per week or less and one woman in four in manual jobs has gross pay of under £132 a week. These are the new working poor. Taxpayers have to subsidise the employers of the working poor by way of the benefits system. Quite how a massive taxpayers' subsidy paid by the State to low-pay firms squares with Conservative economic theory which opposes state hand-outs to companies is for Tory ministers to answer.

The case for a minimum wage was put forward by Winston Churchill in 1909, when he declared in Parliament: "It is a serious national evil that any class of His Majesty's subjects should receive less than a living wage in return for their utmost exertions... Where you have... no organisation, no parity of bargaining, the good employer is underpaid by the bad, and the bad employer is underpaid by the worst... where those conditions prevail you have not a condition of progress, but a condition of progressive degeneration."

Today we are a long way from such "One Nation" values, and it is to be doubted that the contemporary Conservative Party is capable of ever returning to them. But in their efforts to drive more and more working people into poverty employment ministers should not misquote international data, most of which show that forms of minimum wage systems coexist with higher employment and economic growth than the UK has managed on average since 1979.

Yours truly,
DENIS MACSHANE,
House of Commons,
February 16.

Getting into Oxford

From Dr G. D. W. Smith

Sir, Dr J. S. Rowett, of Brasenose College (letter, February 14), accuses me of "misplaced social engineering" for wanting to abolish the Oxford entrance examination. Oh dear! I had no idea that such a heinous crime existed.

Our colleagues in Cambridge, who effectively abolished their own examination a decade or so ago, must be mortified to discover the error of their ways. And as for the other 186 universities and colleges of higher education listed in the current UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) handbook — which either never had an entrance examination of their own or abolished it some time ago — well, one wouldn't like even to mention them in polite company, would one?

The uncomfortable truth is that those responsible for "social engineering", as Dr Rowett puts it, are actually the people who for generations have set non-standard examinations at non-standard times, and thus made it extremely difficult for state school pupils to apply to Oxford.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE SMITH,
Trinity College, Oxford,
February 16.

Word imperfect

From Baroness Thomas of Walliswood

Sir, Last Friday I received some papers covering the 1994-95 appointment exercise for lay members of industrial tribunals. The papers explain that "Each tribunal normally consists of a legally qualified Chairman and two lay members...". A note at the bottom of the page reads: "The term Chairman is derived from the legislation governing the tribunals; it applies equally to men and women." The papers go on to stress the importance of recruiting suitably qualified women.

It seems to me that when language is so confusing or potentially damaging that an 18-word justification is required for a single word, then that language is demonstrably out of date. On leaving Oxford University in 1957 I considered learning to type at the Air Ministry (as it then was) because they paid their trainees. The application form required me to state "whether I had ever been a member of any fascist party". A note at the bottom of the page read: "For fascist read fascist or communist".

I rest my case.
Yours sincerely,
SUSAN THOMAS,
House of Lords,
February 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Worthwhile work to stop offending

From Mr Alan Taylor

Sir, Your leading article (February 15) on the Employment Policy Institute's report on unemployment and crime says that the Home Office would disagree with Dr John Wells's central claim that crime levels can be linked to the state of the labour market. Yet Home Office guidance to all probation services last year said:

The aim... is to assist services in improving the employment prospects of all offenders... Research studies emphasise that offenders can more successfully be rehabilitated and kept from further re-offending if they are helped into employment, education or job-related training.

This trust would not condone or excuse crime, and we do not argue that any groups are "predisposed" to commit crime. We simply state that measures to increase employment and reduce poverty are essential to reduce the overall level of offending. Surely the really perverse morality in modern Britain is one that deems unemployment to be a price worth paying in the control of inflation.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN TAYLOR
(Director of Policy Development,
Apex Trust, St Alphage House,
Wingate Annex, 2 Fore Street, EC2,
February 15.

From Mr Ian Paul

Sir, "Every crime is the result of a moral decision to commit it" (your leader sub-heading) but it is also the result of a complex of moral decisions by those in power. It is almost self-

evident that economic and social circumstances affect the level of crime: anyone who has lived in an urban area can tell you that. The real question is how this should be interpreted and how it should affect policy on law and order and economic strategy.

Contrary to much that is said, the Judeo-Christian tradition does not simply privatise morality in the way that your leader suggests. The Old Testament prophets repeatedly indict the political and religious leaders for the state of the nation. Individuals are responsible for their actions, but also for the actions of others. I am my brother's keeper; those more likely to commit crime are my neighbours.

The right interpretation of the research by Dr John Wells is not that criminals are less responsible, but that those who determine policy are more responsible — along with those who elect them. Individual accountability for crime only makes sense when it is allied to a wider responsibility which many in government seem unable or unwilling to shoulder.

Yours faithfully,
IAN PAUL,
44 Kingston Road, Poole, Dorset.

From Mr David Bailey

Sir, The idea of a link between crime and unemployment goes back much further than a "century and a half". Remember that "Satan finds work for idle hands".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BAILEY,
29 Elgin Crescent, W11.

Asylum applications

From Mr Barry Stoyke and others

Sir, The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, has announced that additional resources, costing £37 million, are to be made available for the faster processing of asylum applications (report, February 16). Whilst we welcome any moves which will increase efficiency in the resolution of applications for asylum, we are concerned that no additional resources have been made available for representing asylum seekers.

Only limited funding is available for legal representation at asylum appeal hearings. This is channelled principally through the Refugee Legal Centre. No legal aid is available, and consequently there is an acute shortage of competent representatives.

Decisions on asylum applications can literally be a matter of life and death, and new fast-track procedures mean that asylum applicants can be removed within days. It is essential that applicants are properly repre-

sented, otherwise miscarriage of justice, with potentially fatal consequences, may occur.

A report, commissioned by the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's Department, says that in order to increase efficient handling of asylum applications, all parts of the system must have increased resources. This must include resources for asylum applicants' representatives, through an extension of legal aid and the adequate funding of voluntary organisations, if the odds are not to be unacceptably stacked against asylum-seekers.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY STOYKE
(Director, Refugee Legal Centre),
NICHOLAS BLAKE
(Chair, Immigration Law Practitioners' Association),
RUTH BUNDEY
(Chair, Law Society Immigration Law Sub-Committee),
Refugee Legal Centre,
Sussex House,
39-45 Bernersday Street, SE1,
February 17.

Rain and sewers

From Mr A. E. Jones

Sir, The recent wet spell has resulted in a substantial increase in the quantities of effluent entering the combined sewerage system at my house (letter, February 21). The resultant volumes have, however, been most welcome as both domestic sewage and rainwater run-off are trickled through a series of red beds, which in turn filter the effluent. This supplies a large pond with sparkling water and the consequence is a highly attractive wet area where fish and moorhens breed.

Qualifications abroad

From Sir John Hanson,
Director-General
of the British Council

Sir, Edward Fennell, writing in your supplement on the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (February 16), is right to point out that British qualifications are still valued across the world and to recognise the potential export value of overseas purchasers holding British qualifications. They are, as he says, already half-way to being persuaded to buy British.

These are the longer term benefits — winning friends and influence and ultimately trade for Britain. But exporting British education is not just about the future. Education and training exports currently earn Britain over £4 billion per annum. In an agreement worth £250,000 to

I advocate the use of treatment systems such as this on a larger scale. They provide a multitude of advantages in that they reduce the burden on municipal systems, generate amenity, improve landscape diversity and contribute to the fight against the loss of wetland habitat.

As well as these points, my water rates are reduced.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN JONES,
Teapond House,
Green Farm,
Littlebury Green, Essex,
February 21.

the UK, Mexico is developing competency-based qualifications in engineering, maintenance, in manufacture and in training. Oman is another success story that proves the British system is exportable as part of its policy to replace expatriate workers with nationals, the Government has decided to use British GNVQs in the training programme for school-leavers.

The British Council helped establish the links between these overseas governments and the UK education and training institutions. We are convinced of the export potential of British occupational standards, NVQs and their Scottish equivalents, and competency-based training.

Yours etc,
JOHN HANSON,
Director-General,
The British Council,
10 Spring Gardens, W1,
February 16.

Mission accomplished

From the Chairman of the Channel Tunnel Association

Sir, Fifteen months ago we passed resolutions to wind up this association — which was founded in 1963 — when the Channel Tunnel became fully operative. We cease to exist after our final general meeting on February 23 and hope that you might print this as our thanks for all the material which you have published over the years and as our congratulations to Eurotunnel.

We leave behind the national collection of Channel Tunnel material of nearly 15,000 items, housed at Churchill College, Cambridge, and available to all serious students and researchers. Its contents go back over 150 years.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN R. TITCHENER,
Chairman,
The Channel Tunnel Association,
44 Westbourne Terrace,
Hyde Park, W2,
February 20.

Strictly classified

From Mr F. Tomlin

Sir, William Rees Mogg's article on Otto Ammon's human classification ("Society's dicey prospects", February 16) reminds me of a "classification of officers" adopted, I believe, by the Prussian General Staff.

All officers exhibit a combination of two out of four basic human characteristics: intelligent, stupid, lazy and industrious. Officers who are intelligent and industrious make excellent staff officers. Those who are intelligent and lazy are fit for the highest command, since they don't get bogged down in detail but have a clear view of the whole battlefield. Those who are stupid and lazy can be safely ignored. Those who are stupid and industrious must be identified and rooted out as soon as possible before they do irreparable damage.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK TOMLIN,
2 Ruskin Dene, Billericay, Essex,
February 16.

Forgotten anguish of wartime Hull

From the Bishop of Hull

Sir, Lord Denman (letter, February 18) rightly asks us "not to forget other non-combatants who lost their lives in the tragedy" of the Second World War. Through your columns, may I draw attention to the innocent victims of indiscriminate bombing, whose tragedy has never been named.

The people of Hull to this day feel great anguish at the devastation of their city has never been recognised, either in Britain or in Europe. Proportionately it sustained more destruction than either London or Coventry. Nearly 10 per cent of the city's homes were either destroyed or seriously damaged, and only a few buildings were left standing in the centre of the city.

As well as targeting the railway, docks and industry, the warplanes would, on their return flights, discharge their remaining bombs indiscriminately over Hull, killing and maiming thousands of innocent civilians.

This has left a mark, not just on the terrain, but on the interior landscape of people's souls. Hull was never named in the news bulletins, which referred to it simply as a "town in the North East".

There is no way that the people of this European maritime city wish to detract from the commemorations of Dresden and Coventry, but the focus on the suffering of victims of indiscriminate bombing in Europe brings again to the surface the grief of this community.

As one who shares in the pastoral care of this now modern and vibrant city, may I ask the nation not to forget the people of Hull in its national remembrance this year.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES HULLEN,
Hullen House, Woodfield Lane,
Hessle, North Humberside,
February 20.

Promises in Pakistan

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, Having read with concern your leader, "Insult to Islam" (February 11), saying that Pakistan is now threatening all religious minorities, in line with their persecution by Islamic fundamentalists in Iran, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, I got out a handsome blue and gold book presented to me by the Government of Pakistan nearly 40 years ago. It was the Constitution of the new Islamic republic, which I had drafted for them in accordance with their instructions.

This 1956 Constitution said that Pakistan should be a state "wherein adequate provision should be made for the minorities freely to profess and practise their religion and develop their culture". At that time it gave a guarantee of "freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship and association." This was done so that the people of Pakistan may prosper and attain their rightful and honoured place amongst the nations of the world and make their full contribution towards international peace and the progress and happiness of humanity.

The 1956 Constitution stated that "every citizen has the right to profess, practise and propagate any religion", and that "every religious denomination and every sect thereof has the right to establish, maintain and manage its religious institutions". It guaranteed the right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of these rights.

What has gone wrong?

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS BENNION,
54a Nicodemou Mylona Street 3095,
Limassol, Cyprus,
February 13.

Wilden paradox

From Sir Donald Harrison,
President, Royal Society of Medicine

Sir, The death of Oscar Wilde from complications of a middle-ear infection (Body and Mind, February 16) was particularly inopportune in view of the reputation of his father, Sir William Robert Wills Wilde, as the pre-eminent ear surgeon of his day. Sir William is best remembered for the "Wilde" incision, used to decompress mastoid infection and thus avoid the sequelae from which his son died. Perhaps an instance of failure of a father-son relationship.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD HARRISON, President,
The Royal Society of Medicine,
1 Wimpole Street, W1.

Driven to distraction

From Mr John G. Glover

Sir, Mr A. G. Phillips (letter, February 20) queries the phrase "forward planning". Several years ago, in a local authority transport department, we had some staff tasked with defining future policy alternatives. We called them the Backward Planning Group, since everybody else knew it was never going to happen anyway.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN G. GLOVER,
3 Northcliffe Close,
Worcester Park, Surrey.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

CALDER WILLINGHAM

Calder Willingham, American novelist, playwright and screenwriter, died on February 19 in Laconia, New Hampshire, aged 72. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on December 22, 1922.

A WRITER of power and originality, Calder Willingham nevertheless gave his best years to the cinema where, as a screenwriter, he was associated with films like *Paths of Glory*, *One-Eyed Jacks* and *The Graduate*. As a novelist it was at one time fashionable (in this country at any rate) to bracket his name with that of J. D. Salinger. This stemmed from the superficial resemblance between his first novel, *End as a Man* (1947) and Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* (1951), both of which dealt with the problems of adolescence in a school environment.

The comparison, which was only possible since Willingham's novel was not known in Britain for several years after its American publication, was, in any case, misleading. There could have been nothing less alike than Salinger's cuteness and control, and the sprawling power of Willingham. Sometimes his mastery of his material might be in doubt. His sagas of criminality and evil in America's Deep South were apt to contain passages which bordered on inconsequentiality. But his compassionate handling of his human material, his ability to dive down to the bottom and portray disillusionment and despair without lapsing into chic, invite comparison with a figure of the stature of Dos Passos, rather than Salinger.

It was the cinema's gain, and the American novel's far greater loss, that Willingham was drawn to writing for the screen, distinguished though his contribution to it was. Yet when the final volume of his trilogy *The Big Nickel* appeared in 1976, 25 years after the second, it could be seen that the cinema had not, as it so often does, taken away anything essential from his creative gift.

Born in the Deep South, Calder Willingham was educated at The Citadel, a South Carolina military college. *End as a Man*, based on his experiences as a cadet there, was a study of sadism among students, long before such exposure had become fashionable. Described by the novelist James T. Farrell as "a powerful, vivid presentation of existing evil", the book won critical praise. But almost as important to its commercial success was the controversy it generated.

Charges of obscenity were brought against the novel's publishers, Vanguard Press, by the New York Society



Dustin Hoffman (Ben Braddock) and Katharine Ross (Elaine Robinson) in *The Graduate*, 1967

for the Suppression of Vice. They were dismissed, but not before a sensational trial which garnered Willingham immense publicity. He capitalised on it by turning *End as a Man* into a Broadway play and then into a film. At that point he appeared to have joined the ranks of postwar American writers of naturalistic fiction exemplified by Norman Mailer and James Jones. He is still, by some critics, regarded as the outstanding writer of his generation.

Although he published a total of ten novels between 1947 and 1975 he was never again to repeat this initial commercial triumph. Though a fellow writer like Norman Mailer might praise him as being "a clown with the bite of a ferret", the American critical establishment largely turned its back on him.

Willingham now went to Hollywood where he began to produce screenplays for some of the outstandingly original

pictures of the time. His screen credits included Stanley Kubrick's powerful depiction of cowardice, corruption and incompetence in the trenches of 1916, *Paths of Glory* (1957); Marlon Brando's still-unique western, *One-Eyed Jacks* (1961); *The Graduate* (1967), which propelled Dustin Hoffman to fame as the bemused lover of an older woman who gradually establishes his own identity; and *Little Big Man* (1970). For *The Graduate* Willingham won an Academy Award nomination.

Distinguished though his screenwriting was, it was, as he admitted, done to bring home the bacon, and the necessity of commuting to his New Hampshire home to Hollywood took a toll of his creative powers for at least a decade. More recently, however, the film *Rambling Rose* (1991) gave him a more tangible satisfaction, since it was his own screenplay, adapted from his novel of

the same title which had been published in 1973. The result was an entirely felicitous script, lovingly directed by Martha Coolidge and shot by Johnny E. Jensen.

The film, an intelligently thought-out story about the impact on a Deep South family of the introduction into it of a highly-sexed and completely uninhibited 19-year-old (played by Laura Dern) as maid and general factotum, beautifully preserved the intention of Willingham's original novel with all its humorous naivety and understanding of human frailties. From it the innocent seductress of the title emerges, despite all the chaos she causes in her adoptive family — as well in the hearts of the boys and men of a small Southern town — as someone who would not willingly hurt a fly.

Calder Willingham is survived by his wife Jane, four sons and two daughters.

MAJOR-GENERAL LIONEL HARROD

Major-General Lionel Harrod, OBE, Assistant Chief of Staff (Intelligence) SHAPE, 1976-79, died on January 18 aged 70. He was born on September 7, 1924.

ORIGINALLY an officer of the Grenadier Guards, Lionel Harrod transferred to the Welch Regiment in the middle of his career when the 3rd Battalion of the Grenadiers was disbanded in the early 1960s. Not many officers are able to change from one regiment with long and hallowed traditions to another with an equally revered history, and possessing strong Welsh national feelings as well.

Harrod's considerate and uncomplicated character neutralised his Englishness and enabled him to identify with his Welsh soldiers. He became a highly respected commanding officer of the Welch Regiment in 1966 and played a major role in the happy amalgamation of the Welch Regiment with the South Wales Borderers to form the Royal Regiment of Wales, whose Colonel he was to become in 1977.

Lionel Alexander Digby Harrod was educated at Bromsgrove School and commissioned into the Grenadiers in May 1944. His twenty years in the Guards were a mix of regimental and staff appointments. He served with them in Germany, in Palestine during the British Mandate, in the Malayan emergency and in Tripolitania.

After attending the Staff College, Camberley, in 1955, he was appointed Brigade Major of 19th Brigade of the Strategic Reserve, trained for rapid intervention operations overseas. They landed at Port Said in 1956 during Anthony



Eden's Suez fiasco, and he and his brigade commander were the last two British officers to leave Egypt when the force was eventually withdrawn. He was appointed MBE in 1957 and saw further service with his brigade in Cyprus in the following year.

The year 1963 saw his transfer to the Welch Regiment and three years later he assumed command of its 1st Battalion, and spent most of his tenure in Hong Kong where serious Chinese Communist-inspired unrest was disturbing the Crown Colony. He was in his element.

Working closely with the police, he mounted a series of novel operations, during one of which he landed a company with its supporting policemen by helicopter from the aircraft carrier *Hermes* on top of a 27-storey building housing an illegal Communist printing press. The surprise double envelopment from street level and rooftop met with complete success. He was advanced to OBE in 1969.

The amalgamation with the

South Wales Borderers was due to take place towards the end of his tenure in command. It was typical of his thoughtful nature to volunteer handing over eight months early so that another officer, who might otherwise have missed command, could take the battalion into the amalgamation period. However, before he handed over, he had the privilege of parading the battalion at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on the 250th anniversary of its formation there in 1719.

In 1969 he was appointed to the British Defence Staff in Washington and in 1971 became military attaché in Baghdad. He was subsequently Chief of the British Mission to the Soviet Forces in Germany, 1974-76. In 1976 he was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff (Intelligence) to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

He retired from the Army in 1979 but became its Inspector of Recruiting as a retired officer for a further ten years. This enabled him to maintain his connections with the Army which he loved.

His proudest moment in retirement was being appointed Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Wales, a post he held from 1977 to 1982. He took the greatest interest in helping to consolidate the amalgamation of the two famous Welsh regiments, which he had played so great a part in bringing about ten years earlier. He was also active in the Military Commentators' Circle, the British Atlantic Committee, Peace through Nato and the European Atlantic Group. Above all, he was a devout Christian.

He married, in 1952, Anne Priscilla Stormont Gibbs. She survives him with their son and two daughters.

SIR WALTER BULL

Sir Walter Bull, KCVO, chartered surveyor and former adviser to the Duchy of Lancaster, died on January 9 aged 92. He was born on March 17, 1902.

WALTER BULL served on the Duchy of Lancaster's six-man council for 17 years, advising on the management of its 35,000 acres whose income traditionally swells the Queen's privy purse.

He accepted the honorary appointment in 1987 after serving as president of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and was closely involved, a decade later, in the sale of the freeholds of residential property in Harrogate — following the 1967 Leasehold Reform Act. He had made his name in the City of London, however, where his knowledge of property values in the metropolis helped him to become one of the most prominent surveyors of his generation.

Walter Edward Avenon Bull was born at Walton-on-Thames. He was the son of a chartered surveyor of the same name who persisted in calling his son and daughter "Boy" and "Girl" until they were into their teens. They then rebelled and, neither caring for his or her Christian names, elected to be known as Pat and Molly. The "Pat" reflected young Walter's birth on St Patrick's Day.

He started at Gresham's School, Holt, but became ill while he was there. Because of the school's discipline and its remoteness in Norfolk, his parents then moved him to Aidenham in Hertfordshire.

On leaving school he was articled to his father's firm Walter Bull and Co in Queen Victoria Street, London, where he won the silver and gold medals for coming top in his professional examinations. After three years there, howev-

er, he left in 1924 to join another firm, George Baxter, and five years later went to work for Wootton and Sons.

He drove a London bus in the General Strike and, as a special constable at the time, was given a truncheon, which he kept as a memento. Around the same time he began to attract wider attention in his profession through a paper which he read to the RICS on the 1927 Landlord and Tenant Act.

It was on the strength of this that he made his most signifi-



cant move in 1930 — to join the highly regarded City firm of Vigers. It was at Vigers, whose clients included London Transport, K. Shoes and the Grosvenor Estates, that Bull made his name.

He succeeded Geoffrey Vigers as senior partner in 1942 and continued as such until 1974, after which he retired, retaining an interest in the firm as a consultant. Then in 1987, aged 85, he rejoined (as a consultant) his father's company which, after closing in the 1920s, had been revived.

He is survived by his wife Moira, whom he first met through the Putney Lawn Tennis Club and married in 1933, and by their son.

PROFESSOR GERARD TAYLOR



Gerard Taylor, Professor of Surgery at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, 1960-84, died on January 3 aged 74. He was born in Natal on September 22, 1920.

GERARD TAYLOR was a very special and unique man. A calm, kind and modest person of small physical stature he was nevertheless a giant as a teacher and leader. He was at the same time a technically superb surgeon.

Gerard William Taylor was brought up in Derby by parents who had a strong concern for community affairs. His father was a local councillor and an engineer by profession. Gerry Taylor left Bemrose School, Derby, with a county scholarship to read medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London. He was house surgeon in Edgware and then was commissioned into the RAMC, serving in France and Egypt.

When the war was over —

conscious perhaps of his remarkable facility with his hands — he resolved to become a surgeon. From Redhill Hospital he took his FRCS and was awarded the Hallett prize. Sir James Paterson Ross, then Professor of Surgery at Bart's, heard that the highest mark of all time had just been awarded to a Bart's man. Sir James sent for Taylor whom, with some difficulty, he eventually recruited.

At the time, Bart's surgery was at the height of its

reputation and poised to enter an almost legendary period. The unit launched many famous surgical careers — and Taylor was rightly recognised as having been an integral part of that process. There was universal recognition that the correct decision had been made when he succeeded Ross in the chair of surgery at Bart's in 1960.

During his tenure Bart's surgery flourished. But Taylor was also in demand for national and international events and became president of virtually every organisation with which he was associated. Strangely, however, he never stood for election to the council of the Royal College of Surgeons — the necessary stepping-stone to its presidency. Instead, he concentrated on his work at Bart's, performing the highest quality of vascular and endocrine surgery. In these years he travelled relatively little but he greatly treasured his recognition in the United States when in 1978 he was presented with the honorary fellowship of the American College of Surgeons.

In 1983 at the age of 63 he decided to devote three years "where I can do some good" as Professor of Surgery and chairman at the King Khalid University Hospital, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. There he attracted much the same admiration as he had done in London.

In his retirement Taylor helped his wife Olivia Gay, whom he had married in 1951, with running her successful pony stud. She survives him, together with their son and daughter.

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The campaign "for the cleansing of London from impurity" which prompted this investigation seems to have been long overdue.

rather shrill tones: "Well, what are you standing there for?" Presently, the woman was seen to accost another soldier, and this time, apparently, she found a victim, for the two remained talking for some time, and finally disappeared into one of the side streets.

In the course of a couple of hours' observation the writer witnessed several cases of verbal solicitation of soldiers by prostitutes. The whole district is so infested by prostitutes that no one could walk a hundred yards from the station in any direction without passing

ON THIS DAY

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In the course of a couple of hours' observation the writer witnessed several cases of verbal solicitation of soldiers by prostitutes. The whole district is so infested by prostitutes that no one could walk a hundred yards from the station in any direction without passing

scores of them. But this open flaunting of vice in the main street is by no means the worst of the evils which have made the very name of Waterloo-road notorious to everyone who has any care for the good repute of London. There is ample evidence that the back streets which spread like a net between Westminster Bridge-road and Blackfriars-road are honeycombed with "house of accommodation" and shebeens.

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Who says Auntie is not looking after the regions? To judge by last Saturday's saturation rugby coverage from Cardiff, there can be no complaints

Radio 5 Live's first England-Wales rugby international at Cardiff Arms Park: where else would you have expected me to be last Saturday afternoon? Seated in the BBC Radio Wales commentary box, I thought of Michael Grade's story of the Welsh fan who asked Cliff Morgan: "Goin' to the match, Cliff?" The famed sportscaster replied that he was covering it for BBC Radio. Came the sympathetic response: "Pity you won't be seein' it then."

Thanks to BBC Radios Wales and 5, I was not only hearing it, but seeing it double. Fortified with earphones providing the commentary of either service, I watched the action both on a television monitor straight in front of me and, just 20 yards away from the muddy ground itself. As *Land of My Fathers* from 50,000 Welsh throats welled up, I felt sorry for my husband, a loyal son of the Principality, seated high in the Upper North Stand opposite.

The commentary box turned out to be a row of boxes: open concrete cubicles in which pairs of various extremely well-dressed men were passionately describing the match to each other as if they were the only ones covering it. Within a few yards were also the BBC's Welsh-language Radio Cymru, S4C, the Welsh Channel 4 for which the BBC provides Welsh-language sports commentary free, BBC-TV Wales and BBC-TV Network. Elsewhere were ITV, Sky Television and probably others, united in a vast effort to bring one event to a waiting world.

Does this world include women? Does this most male of all sports hold anything for the female of the species? And, on a such a Saturday, with two rugby internationals (Scotland against France, too), can

the news-and-sport network Radio 5 possibly be anything other than Radio Blotter?

There were plenty of women there on Saturday, unlike the days when I first followed my husband through the turnstiles of what is properly called the National Stadium and discovered that it was easier to find a spare ticket lying on the ground than find a ladies' room. But rugby has no women presenters. Eddie Butler acknowledged the problem. A Welsh international player from 1980-84, he is now television commentator for the Welsh edition of BBC1's *Grandstand*. "They say, 'Get a woman presenter!' But it isn't enough."

What you need, Butler says, is knowledge. Rugby is a particularly complicated game, hard to follow.



BRENDA MADDOX

"The ball keeps disappearing under heaps of bodies." The best way to recruit more women fans, he suggests (correctly), is to offer more explanatory features and pre-match guides to the fundamentals of the game.

Butler thus answers a question that perplexed me. What is it about skilled wrestling in a scrum that

qualifies a man for the art of rattling on coherently in front of a live microphone? The Arms Park last week was awash with players-turned-presenters. Obviously, it helps to be Welsh on such an occasion, accustomed to enunciating polysyllabically without hesitation. Charm helps too.

To perform on Radio 5, Barry John, the Welsh rugby immortal, arrived rosy and beaming, wearing one of those single-breasted dark blue Chesterfields to which politicians are so partial. I braved a question. "Will Wales really move to a new stadium in Bridgend?" "Not a chance, love," he said, planting a big kiss on my cheek.

Most of the commentators came prepared with sheaves of handwritten statistics and anecdotes.

Still, they have to be prepared for the unexpected, as on Saturday when the Welsh forward John Davies was given the first red card in international rugby and was sent off for kicking an English player in the head. This left Wales one man short and in a state described by Barry John as "total confusion".

Worse followed when there was a tactical substitution in the name of injury for a player who was not injured. "They have," said Ian Robertson, the Radio 5 chief rugby commentator, "broken the laws of international rugby. But they had to do it." (In order to save an untrained forward from possibly breaking his neck in the scrum. You see how much I learnt.)

Is perhaps all this coverage not a bit excessive for an efficiency-

obsessed BBC? Yet on Saturday Radio 5, broadcasting over the whole country, had not only to follow Scotland-France and an array of football matches at the same time, it had to be strictly neutral. Radio Wales was single-minded and partisan.

BBC-TV Wales too is unashamedly nationalistic. After Wales had lost, 9-23, it promised, over an emotive collage of the Welsh flag and mud-spattered red jerseys, "Tomorrow is Another Day". The message was the latest in BBC Wales's prize-winning rugby promotions which stir up tribal passions powerful enough to make any native ready to die, let alone sing, for Wales.

From Cardiff how odd seemed the BBC's vacuous, over-designed, new document, *People and Programmes*, proclaiming that licence-payers far from London believe the BBC is out of touch with their real lives. Can anybody in Wales feel neglected by the BBC? I don't believe it.

What are papers for?

Roy Greenslade on the issues local newspapers must address

Sales of regional daily, evening, Sunday and weekly newspapers — with just a few notable exceptions — are in decline. For years the list of six-monthly circulation figures has shown more minus than plus signs.

Why are people deserting their local papers? Is this trend irreversible? Are we witnessing the end of the age of print? These are the kinds of questions regional groups and their publishers association, the Newspaper Society (NS), have long been asking.

Owners and editors, convinced that there is some magic formula to turn the tide, remain remarkably sanguine about the future. But they also often call into question their own initiatives.

The latest self-assessment has been a lengthy study into "new product development", the attempts to stimulate readers by offering extra sections or providing electronic services. The NS

Papers were never founded simply to make money

editorial. People have become disillusioned by having so little to read. I made this point as a panellist during a question-time session and there was muted applause, undoubtedly from the editorial delegates, some of whom spoke to me in whispers afterwards.

They complained about the rundown in staffing, the relatively low wages they can afford, the implausibility of trying to innovate when the paper itself is starved of resources.

One editor told me that the advertising department's decision on the placing of adverts was final, and could change at the last minute. Editorial had become the secondary matter.

Why the whispers? Editors who face what are referred to as "new realities" have lost control.

One can only hope that the subtlety of Ms Lodge's address was taken to heart by delegates and that they are today bombarding the controlling companies which own the hundreds of newspapers around this country with memos.

The question is simple: what are newspapers for? But are owners prepared to provide the right answer by giving back to editorial the resources to make local papers essential reading once more?

Top of the Pops back on track

Audience figures for the celebrated TV show have grown nearly a quarter in a year. Alexandra Frean celebrates its revival

TOP of the Pops, former bastion of spangly jackets, out-of-synch miming, inane pop prattle, kipper ties and flares, is enjoying a remarkable revival. In the past 12 months, the programme has been transformed from an insipid showcase for mainstream single releases and unwatchable dance bands to a varied and bold show featuring album tracks, more live performances, new acts and celebrity presenters.

Its audience has leapt by nearly a quarter to 8.4 million viewers in a year and timeshift, or video, viewing of the show has also grown from virtually nil to 300,000 people a week since January 1994.

Tomorrow night's edition of the programme features the band Blur, which swept the board at Monday's Brit

Awards, not performing its latest hit single, but giving an exclusive performance of *Jubilee*, a track from its *Parklife* album. The programme will be presented by Peter Cunnah of the band D-Ream, and will also screen the world television premiere of Madonna's new video, *Bedtime Story*.

To cement the programme's revival the BBC is today launching a *Top of the Pops* magazine, aimed not at the ten to 16-year-old teenybopper market catered for by titles such as *Smash Hits*, but fans in their late teens and early twenties.

In April it is planning to release a *Top of the Pops* CD, containing original mixes of singles and album tracks recorded for the programme.

Ric Blaxill, the 32-year-old producer behind the show's revival, said that the magazine and the album would tie in with both *Top of the Pops* and with *TOTP2*, BBC 2's Saturday-night version of the programme targeted at older viewers.

Blaxill said the changes were necessary to restore the programme's mainstream showbusiness appeal.

"The show had been suffocated by the rules which said that they had to play new releases and new chart entries, regardless of the quality. It had to be freed up," he said.

As well as adding more album tracks and live performances, Blaxill has commissioned a new theme tune for the programme from Vince Clarke, from the group Erasure.



Brit-Award winning band Blur: celebrity guests on tomorrow's programme with a track from their album *Parklife*



Jimmy Savile: first host in 1964

sure, and rebuilt the *TOTP* set to give it a futuristic metallic look.

In some respects *Top of the Pops* can be seen as a microcosm of today's BBC, and other programmes can be expected to follow. The desire to win back a mass audience and to generate extra revenue through merchandising spin-offs are an obvious response to the political imperatives being placed on the corporation by a government keen to maintain licence-fee funding for as long as possible.

At its peak in the early Eighties, *Top of the Pops* attracted nearly 16 million viewers. But audiences declined to around five million in the early Nineties. The first programme, broadcast on New Year's Day, 1964, from a disused church in Manchester, was presented by Jimmy Savile and featured Dusty Springfield singing *I Only*

Want to Be with You, the Rolling Stones with *I Wanna Be Your Man* and the Dave Clark Five singing *Glad All Over*.

The initial run was planned for only six weeks, but the programme was such a success that it was continued. During the Seventies *Top of the Pops* featured Pan's People and Legs & Co., and a band's appearance on the show could push its single several places up the charts.

The decline in singles sales was partly responsible for the show's decline in the mid-to-late Eighties, as was the preponderance of dance records, which did not always make for exciting television.

Paul Lester, features editor of *Melody Maker* magazine, says an appearance on *Top of the Pops* still has tremendous kudos in the eyes of most rock and pop artists, partly because most of today's stars grew up

watching it in the Sixties and Seventies.

"Record company people still have to go through a very embarrassing interview with the BBC in which they virtually have to beg to get their bands on the show," he said.

Jonathan Morrish, of Sony, says that as the audience for pop and rock radio stations fragmented with the launch of more and more stations, *Top of the Pops* became a consolidating force.

Despite the success of innovative popular culture programmes, such as Channel 4's *The Word*, in attracting new bands and targeting a specific

audience, *Top of the Pops* is still the most important pop and rock programme for mass audiences, Morrish says.

He cites the example of MNS, whose single *I've Got a Little Something for You* owes its current place in the chart largely to two recent appearances on the show.

According to Mai Snow, editor of the music magazine *Mojo*, *Top of the Pops* is more relevant to the record industry than at any time in the past ten years. "It is only natural that a show like this has to refresh itself every few years," he said. "That's what popular culture means."

THE TIMES Audio books for 20p



Today *The Times* offers readers the chance to buy an audio book from a range of 200 Audio Book Collection titles and get a second for the price of Britain's leading quality newspaper. The first 100 titles were listed in yesterday's paper.

All the books are complete and unabridged and give the listener the entire story, exactly as the author intended.

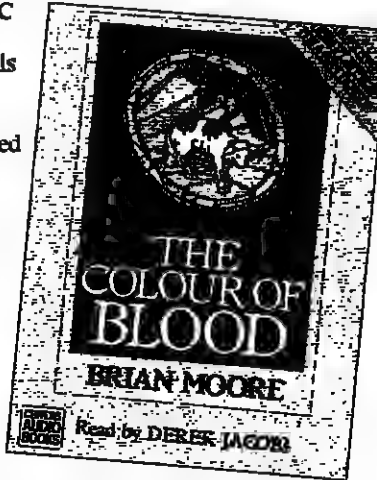
Among the many titles available for 20p is Dirk Bogarde reading his autobiography *A Short Walk from Harrods* (ABC 977-14.95 - 8 cassettes). Bogarde tells of his return to London after 19 years of self-imposed exile in Provence.

Derek Jacobi reads Brian Moore's *The Colour of Blood* (ABC 343-10.95 - 4 cassettes). This is the story of Cardinal Bem, who had a vital message to deliver but had to go into hiding when an attempt was made on his life.

Mary Wesley's *An Imaginative Experience* (ABC 1067 13.95 - 6 cassettes) is read by Samuel West, who tells of a man who sees tragedy in the face of a fellow traveller.

To take advantage of this offer, collect eight of the 12 tokens which will appear over the next two weeks and complete the application form which appeared in yesterday's paper (the form will appear again next Tuesday).

When you buy one of the 200 titles on offer you will be entitled to a second audio tape containing eight tapes or less for only 20p.



Making a name for yourself

Creating a brand name is a sophisticated business

Who would ever have thought of calling an advertising company "Bird's Eye"? Few admen, whose egos usually dictate that their name is emblazoned in gold outside their agency's front door. But then Cordiant is the new name for the old Saatchi & Saatchi group, the marketing services empire which fell out with its founders and now boasts neither a Mr Saatchi nor a Mr Saatchi.

According to the press hand-out, the new name expresses a new spirit characterised by accord and shared purpose. Derived from the roots "cord" or "cordia", meaning core or heart, it positions the company at the heart of one of the

world's leading communications groups. That may sound pretentious twaddle, but they had to come up with something, and to declare that the new name means nothing at all would sound even worse. Yet that's the way modern brand and corporate naming is going: marketers are realising that it's the marketing that creates meanings, not words.

The easy part of brand naming is finding something short, memorable, easy to pronounce and different. The hard and

expensive part is avoiding unfortunate connotations in other languages and cultures (if the name is to cross borders) and making sure it is also registrable and protectable as a trademark.

Geming the right associations is the next step. When Ford introduced a family of cars like the Capri, Cortina and Corsair in the 1970s, they all started with the letter C to link them in one happy Ford family. And they all had a slight Mediterranean air, because this was the age when the foreign holiday was a symbol of affluence, excitement and freedom.

Likewise, Sainsbury's soft drink Gio has a get up and go, holiday, beachy feel to it, whereas it called its new cola Classic because it wanted to send the message that it is as good as anything else on the market, says Robert MacCinn, an account director at Mastername who advises the retailer on its product names.

But in the end the power of marketing makes the linguistic content of brand names almost irrelevant. Persil, Ariel and Novon tell us nothing about soaps. We accept without question that Typhoo is a tea, Anchor a butter, Apple a computer. Orange a mobile phone. If someone offered you a food product called Frog's Nose you would probably be disgusted, says Ian Wood

from identity company Landor Associates. But you don't worry about eating Bird's Eye foods.

Invented names have two big advantages. They make it easier to avoid cultural misunderstandings, and they are less likely to hit legal snags. (As soon as some bright spark links a word like Apple to a computer, other bright sparks rush out and register orange, banana and avocado. "People actually make a living out of registering names so that other people have to buy them," says Dave Allen, managing director at identity consultants Sampson Tyrell.)

Invented names like Cordiant have a fine pedigree. All over the world Kodak stands for quality film. Yet Kodak is a meaningless jumble of letters invented by company founder George Eastman on the ground that the letter K is distinctive. If he had a short word with a K both at the beginning and the end, he reasoned, it would be doubly so.

Nowadays, firms like his use sophisticated computer programmes which either employ super-thesauruses to churn out the roots and derivations of a word in scores of different languages, or which put together combinations of letters in a way that culturally bound humans find difficult. That's how Zeneca, the biotechnology spin-off from ICI, came into being. The root was zen- from zenith and the computer did the rest.

ALAN MITCHELL

Battle of two TV doctors

DANGERFIELD, BBC1's new drama starring Nigel Le Vail as a local GP and police surgeon, makes it comfortably into the top half of our drama ratings chart. **Alexandra Frean** writes. Although *ITV* still dominates the drama charts, its own doctor series, *Doctor Finlay*, scheduled against *Dangerfield*, attracted 900,000 fewer viewers.

The first episode of *The Buccaneers* on BBC1 attracted 9.2 million viewers — 200,000 more than the combined total for the initial (BBC2) and the repeat (BBC1) showings of episode one of *Martin Chuzzlewit*.

TIMES TV TOP 20: DRAMA

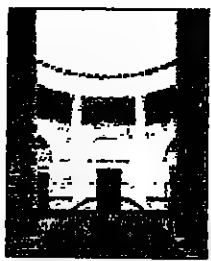
Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Genre	Aud (m)
1 Coronation Street	Mon 30	18.31	ITV	Granada Television	Soap	18.8
2 Eastenders	Thu 02	19.32	BBC1	BBC	Soap	18.4
3 Casualty	Sat 04	20.07	BBC1	BBC	Series	15.1
4 Peak Practice	Tue 31	21.01	ITV	Central Television	Series	14.2
5 The Bill	Fri 03	22.02	ITV	Thames Television	Series	13.1
6 Emmerdale	Tue 02	19.00	ITV	Yorkshire Television	Soap	11.4
7 Neighbours	Tue 31	17.37	BBC1	Grundy Int Operations Ltd	Soap	10.9
8 Thief Takers	Wed 01	21.02	ITV	Central Television	Play	10.9
9 Dangerfield	Fri 03	21.39	BBC1	BBC	Series	8.7
10 Home And Away	Mon 30	18.01	ITV	Seven Network Australia	Soap	8.3
11 Buccaneers	Sun 05	21.07	BBC1	BBC	Series	9.2
12 Pie In The Sky	Sun 05	19.22	BBC1	Wildcat Productions	Series	8.9
13 Doctor Finlay	Fri 03	21.01	ITV	Scottish Television	Series	8.6
14 Ghosts	Sat 04	21.19	BBC1	BBC	Series	8.3
15 September Song	Tue 31	20.29	ITV	Granada Television	Series	7.7
16 99-1	Thu 02	21.01	ITV	Zentil Productions	Series	7.4
17 Brookside	Tue 31	20.31	CH4	Brookside Productions	Soap	7.2
18 Baywatch	Sat 04	17.20	ITV	Tower 12 Productions	Series	7.1
19 The X-Files	Tue 02	21.02	BBC2	20th Century Fox	Series	6.4
20 Rick Mayall Presents	Sun 05	21.45	ITV	Granada Television	Series	6.1

BAF (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board) David Graham & Associates 0233-322829. Copyright © 1995. All rights reserved. Repeats/second transmissions not aggregated. Highest audience per week only. Incomplete network transmissions marked (*).



ARTS 37-39

Oliver Stone: movies for an age without morality



HOMES 41

The difficult art of house restoration



SPORT 43-48

Brian Lara books in for extended stay at Edgbaston

BIG MOVES IN PRIVATE BANKING
Focus 32, 33

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22 1995

UK asks to join European armoured vehicle project

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT has asked to join a Franco-German programme to build a common new armoured personnel carrier for Europe's armies.

The request, made by Roger Freeman, the Minister of State for Procurement, at a meeting in Bonn ten days ago, is likely to provoke deep alarm among chiefs of Britain's three armoured vehicle companies and trigger an argument about the limits of European collaboration in defence procurement.

At a meeting with senior Ministry of Defence officials, industry

leaders had earlier called for Britain to shun the programme, arguing that the MoD could get a more appropriate vehicle, more cheaply, through a domestic competition.

The competition to design and supply about 1,000 of the Multi-role Armoured Vehicles (MRAVs), for up to £500 million, is likely to determine which of Britain's armoured vehicle builders survives into the next century. Strong arguments in favour of a domestic competition have been advanced by Vickers, builder of the Challenger 2 tank, GKN, manufacturer of the Warrior light tank, and Alvis, which builds armoured cars.

Alvis has already cut capacity savagely. Vickers needs the contract

to supply the lightly-armoured vehicle, which will act as a "battlefield taxi" when orders for Challenger 2 run out in about 2000. GKN's order book for Warrior and Piranha vehicles extends only to 1998.

However, Mr Freeman is keen to assist an "industry-led" rationalisation of Europe's defence industry into pan-national manufacturers. He is hoping to use the MRAV contest to trigger an industry shake-out, and to ease the operational difficulties of soldiers, particularly from Britain and France, who increasingly find themselves working side by side with different equipment in theatres such as Bosnia.

At the Bonn meeting with his

French and German counterparts, Mr Freeman set tough conditions for Britain to join a common MRAV procurement programme. Mr Freeman told *The Times* that Britain would insist upon "an open procurement competition between two consortia". Each consortium must include a manufacturer from France, Germany and Britain.

"I think we could reach common agreement here," Mr Freeman said. He was in no doubt about the industrial impact of his proposals and said they would immediately trigger some industrial rationalisation. Industry sources say the proposal has grave drawbacks for British manufacturers.

France and Germany established

a consortium charged with designing and building the vehicle last June. GIAT Industries, the state-owned builder of the Leclerc tank, has been designated France's "national champion" in guns, armoured vehicles and ammunition. It has formed a consortium with another French manufacturer, Panhard, in a supporting role.

GIAT's German partners are Mercedes-Benz and Krauss-Maffei, builder of the Leopard tank.

Both France and Germany are expected to need 2,000 to 3,000 of the armoured vehicles, known in France as the VBM, with first deliveries from 1997-8. But Britain needs only 1,000 MRAVs, with deliveries starting in 2003-5. That

would make it extremely difficult for a British manufacturer to secure an equal work share.

Obtaining partners for two tri-national consortiums would also be tough. GIAT has been in the red for four years, losing £136 million in 1994, and is pressing for a state cash injection. RVI, part of the newly-privatised Renault car group, is its only competitor in armoured vehicles. But giving the contract to any consortium not embracing GIAT would throw state policy off course.

However, Germany is believed to share Britain's enthusiasm for a competition. MAK and Thyssen-Henschel might join forces with British manufacturers.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3023.4	(+4.8)
FT-SE All Share	1456.00	(+1.42)
Nikkei	18098.25	(+138.77)
Dow Jones	3960.50	(+7.06)
S&P Composite	482.57	(+0.60)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	6%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	100 1/8	(100 1/8)
Yield	7.50%	(7.50%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	6 1/4	(6 1/4)
Libor long gilt	10 1/2	(10 1/2)

STERLING		
New York	1.5820	(1.5825)
London	1.5825	(1.5825)
DM	2.3372	(2.3354)
FF	8.1480	(8.1225)
SPF	1.9732	(1.9720)
Yen	163.55	(163.74)
S index	87.0	(86.9)

US \$: DOLLAR		
London	1.4765	(1.4810)
DM	5.1485	(5.1540)
SPF	1.2480	(1.2525)
Yen	87.27	(87.30)
S index	81.5	(81.4)

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (May)	\$16.80	(\$16.85)

GOLD		
London close	\$375.85	(\$379.35)

* Midday figure; Friday's close

NatWest looks for deals after £1.6bn profit

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Westminster Bank is looking for acquisitions to fill in weaknesses in its investment banking and Coutts private banking operations.

Derek Wanless, the chief executive, said: "We do not rule out in-fill acquisitions if organic growth seemed uneconomic or inadequate."

He said: "We continue to run the ruler against the possibility of acquisitions in these markets. We cannot make sense of the numbers at this stage, but the more we build up, the greater the chance that something will emerge in the future."

Mr Wanless said that NatWest was not trying to compete with the Wall Street investment banking giants, certainly in the short to medium term. He said: "We recognise that we are not strong there." NatWest had some

particular skills and would compete where it had strength, such as in treasury operations, he said.

He was speaking as NatWest unveiled a 61 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £1.59 billion, in 1994, after bad debts halved to £616 million. The profits exceeded City expectations, as did the rise in the dividend for the year, up 17 per cent to 21.6p. The final payment of 14.3p is due on May 9. Earnings per share were 80 per cent up, at 63p.

Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets, the investment banking arm, said that areas of weakness for the bank were corporate finance and funds management.

The bank would build up these areas by organic growth and "in-fill" acquisitions. Few acquisition prospects would not overlap with existing businesses, he said, but added:

"We are in a market place where we are over-supplied and major players are building up."

NatWest Markets is likely this year to apply for a Section 20 licence in the US, which would enable it to acquire a US investment bank if it wished. NatWest says that it would take 12 to 18 months to get a licence, which would enable NatWest Markets to conduct a broader range of securities business in the US.

Operating income was down slightly, from £6.99 billion to £6.95 billion. Despite staff cuts, costs rose by 4.5 per cent, to £4.8 billion. This cut the trading surplus by 11 per cent, to £2.14 billion.

Staff costs rose 6 per cent to £2.76 billion despite a 4,000, or 4 per cent, cut in jobs to 87,400 at the year-end as the bank continued its branch closure and reorganisation programme and sold peripheral businesses. This was due to an £82 million profit-sharing scheme, a rise of £32 million on 1993, and a change in the mix of the "skill base" as clerical jobs are cut and customer contact jobs increased. Other costs rose from 1989 million to £1.06 billion.

Mr Wanless said that 137 branches were closed, making the total 2,416. He expects a similar number to be cut each year for the next five years.

Mr Wanless said that the bank continued to invest in making existing businesses more productive. This would "strengthen the group in the intermediate term". In NatWest UK, costs were 2 per cent up, because of productivity costs, the profit-share scheme and a £30 provision for mis-selling of pension transfers. Excluding these, said Mr Wanless, costs would have been 3 per cent lower.

Mr Wanless said that income was flat due to subdued loan demand.

Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman, attacked critics who call banks "greedy" for making profits and who assume that all profits have been earned from UK customers. One third of profits came from the UK, he said.



Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman of NatWest, attacked misunderstanding among the critics of banks' profits

Persil Power was 'greatest' setback

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

SIR Michael Perry, chairman of Unilever, admitted yesterday that the launch of Persil Power was the greatest marketing setback the group has ever experienced.

Unilever launched the detergent in Europe last year only to find that the product damaged clothing.

Yesterday it emerged the resulting problems cost Unilever £57 million in write-offs. However, Sir Michael insisted that the lessons had been learnt.

His remarks came as Unilever unveiled a 24 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £2.38 billion from £1.93 billion in the year to December 31. Excluding £490 million of exceptional charges in the previous period, underlying earnings rose by just 3 per cent.

Sir Michael described the year as one of contrasting experiences. A disappointing performance from Europe clouded a marked improve-

ment in profits from North America and continuing strong growth from the rest of the world.

A final dividend of 20.3p (18.95p) brings the total payout to 26.81p (25.03p) and will be paid to shareholders on May 19.

Tempos, page 26



Sir Michael: lessons learnt

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US banks merge, page 26
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Lautro offers settlement in Pru leak case

By ROBERT MILLER

LAUTRO, the outgoing regulator for life companies, has offered a substantial settlement to a former female employee who was dismissed after an independent investigation by Simmons & Simmons, a city firm of lawyers. The offer has not yet been accepted.

Simmons & Simmons was appointed last summer to pinpoint the source of a leak of highly confidential and potentially damaging documents. These concerned an informal Lautro investigation into the pensions selling practices of the Prudential, Britain's largest insurer.

Lautro, with the full approval of the Prudential, appointed Simmons & Simmons to investigate the leak. It is believed that the insurer expected to be kept fully informed of the progress of the investigation. In the autumn, however, the

Prudential was told that the matter had been resolved internally. It is understood the Prudential has not been allowed to see the report. Last night the company declined to comment.

Esme Chandler, the Lautro employee, was dismissed after the completion of the Simmons & Simmons investigation. She is understood to have alleged wrongful dismissal and was prepared to take her case to an industrial tribunal.

Lautro, in the meantime, has made a substantial compensation offer which Ms Chandler has not yet accepted. Speculation, albeit anecdotal, has it that Ms Chandler was not responsible for the leak.

Simmons & Simmons said: "We are unable to comment whether we are involved with this case or not."

The high profile leak of the sensitive Lautro documents led to a furious row between the regulator and Mick Newmarch, then chief executive of the Prudential.

Last month Mr Newmarch quit his post after the company admitted that his relationship with City regulators had broken down and the Stock Exchange was investigating his dealings in Prudential shares.

The share transaction took place hours before a damning report on personal pensions mis-selling was published by the Securities and Investments Board. Treasury sources have recently alleged that Mr Newmarch was aware of the contents of the report after he had a personal meeting with Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

UN attacks Britain's job policy

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government's job policies are sharply criticised today by the United Nations' principal employment body, which proposes that Britain should embrace full employment as its main economic goal.

Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, is expected to reject largely the findings of a year-long analysis of world jobs and unemployment carried out by the UN's International Labour Office. But Labour Party leaders will welcome the conclusions as an authoritative rejection of a central aspect of the Government's economic policies.

John Major, the Prime Minister, is

expected to go to Copenhagen in a fortnight to join other world leaders at the UN's world social summit, whose likely declaration of a re-commitment to full employment as a key world goal is fore-shadowed in today's report.

Michel Hansenne, the ILO's Director-General, launching the study, will reject the idea that little can be done to solve unemployment and will insist that the task of creating sufficient new jobs to overcome unemployment, under-employment and low pay "ranks as the primary challenge for economic and social policy in all countries at all levels of development across the globe".

The ILO's report includes a range of policy prescriptions specifically designed to help Third World countries and the

"transitional" economies of eastern Europe. But UK political and business leaders will seize mainly on its conclusions about the jobs record of the industrialised countries, and especially on the policy of deregulating the labour market which the Government has vigorously pursued.

Full employment, the ILO says, played a central part in post-war economic success and it is now important and timely for countries to revive that commitment. "The co-ordination of economic policies and the operation of global trade, financial and investment systems will then need to be viewed from the standpoint of their impact on employment outcomes."

Britain against the world, page 29

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□ Riding the banking cycle □ Gilt repurchase market needs placid waters □ Minister spells out realities

NatWest thinks long

SO FAR so good. Having set itself a target of earning an average 17.5 per cent on shareholders' funds over the banking cycle, Lord Alexander's "new" team at NatWest Group has quickly built up to 18.7 per cent. But neither the board nor anyone else can yet be sure what stage the banking cycle has reached.

Over the past two years, economic recovery has helped to boost group pre-tax profits from £400 million to £1.6 billion through its banks having to provide far less against bad and doubtful debts. Given the greater awareness of risk these days, there should be a further £100 million-£200 million to come from lower provisions, but that phase is really over.

By the second half of 1994, however, investment banking profits had turned down, albeit NatWest Markets has made itself more stable than some by specialising in securities and treasury operations. Investment banks, like stock market prices, can be one of the first forward indicators of the cycle. NatWest's own shares fell at only 7.7 times 1994 earnings, suggesting that the City is not looking for much medium-term growth.

The conventional cycle may, however, not be much of a guide this time. The growth normally seen in business lending as economic recovery blossoms has

yet to make any appearance. The group's risk-weighted assets, mainly lending, stagnated in 1994 and are lower than five years ago. Tougher lending policies and risk management, though less in evidence at NatWest than some rivals, have tended to stifle natural growth so far. But that leaves well managed banks with a problem. They have money to lend, over-headers to spread and momentum to sustain. But they want to avoid getting involved in yet another of those easy lending spurges that go horribly wrong and regularly make bankers a laughing stock.

Lloyds is trying to resolve this dilemma by buying Cheltenham & Gloucester's share of the housing market. NatWest rejects that approach and is still selling a few odd businesses, though it has bought in America to rebuild in retail banking. Its main answer is to spread abroad, more carefully this time, and to invest in selected businesses such as life assurance, investment banking and international private banking, helped by the Courts brand. It would like to buy an American investment

bank, but has not rushed. Several have come and gone, though another interesting play is now available.

This strategy looks more risky in the short term but safer over the long haul. The immediate effect has been to boost costs by a net 5 per cent, despite continuing, staff-annoying cuts in British high street banking. These extra overheads account for most of an 11 per cent fall in trading profits before provisions, which did not please City analysts. When bank profits are becoming politically embarrassing again, however, this could prove shrewd if the extra overheads deliver business.

Yielding to calls for repo market

THE establishment of a repurchase market in gilts was inevitable but has taken a surprisingly long time to come. In many ways, London's financial markets have long been far more sophisticated than their counterparts in Europe and London dwarfs Frankfurt and Paris as a financial centre. Yet,

PENNINGTON



repo markets were established in France and Germany first.

The advent of open repos is potentially the most far-reaching change in the gilt market, apart from the auction system, since Big Bang in 1996. Its belated coming may owe, as one leading gilt commentator put it, to a philosophy within the Bank of England of "one miracle at a time".

Now that the Bank and the Treasury have eventually acceded to the will of the market—and particularly to non-domestic gilt-edged market makers and their overseas institutional investor clients—great claims are being made for the innovation.

The Treasury talked enthusiastically yesterday about the

gap between the cost of borrowing in Britain and the relatively lower cost in America, France and Germany. The cost, officials estimated, is some 100 basis points higher than in the US and 60 basis points above France.

At least some of this premium was being put down to the lack of flexibility conferred by a repo market. But this is a touch disingenuous. Risk premia in the British government bond market have substantially been because of the vagaries of British economic policy. Prime among these are a poor relative record on inflation and periodic crises in sterling.

The hope is that the new repo market will, from the beginning of next year, attract more foreign investors and so lower yields. But, so near to the election, that seems a forlorn hope in the near future. Foreign investors have been bailing out of gilts and sterling, a painful protest against disarray within the Government and are not likely to find British assets any more popular for the rest of this Parliament.

In more placid political times, the repo market may come into

its own and make a marginal difference to borrowing costs. But there will be no short-term dividend for this Government.

Working together, on the wrong box

BRITAIN may never again develop a fighter plane, tank or frigate unaided. Modern weapons systems are so complex, their cost so huge, that only by collaborating can European nations now afford the defence equipment they need at a price that fits peacetime priorities.

Working together, with a continent-wide market for their products, Europe's weapons makers should be able to match the scale economies of their American and Russian counterparts and remain at the forefront of technology. Export prospects will be enhanced, and any fears of European conflict reduced.

Roger Freeman, Britain's defence procurement minister, has recognised this reality, and had the good sense to spell it out, both to the Commons and to the public. With commendable en-

ergy, he has set about encouraging Europe's weapons makers to develop closer links.

His proposal to join the Franco-German armoured vehicle programme nevertheless provokes a question. How far down the hierarchy of technology need collaboration extend?

Britain wants, in the words of one industrialist, "an armoured box on wheels, with a pop-gun," procured by competitive tender, in the next century. France wants a more sophisticated machine, built by its national champion, with foreign partners, in three years time. Germany wants the best of all worlds.

Forcing British firms into a Euro-contest over the wrong product would do them, and the taxpayer, no favours. In this case, the minister might do well to keep his options open.

Mortgage gap

MORTGAGE lenders will feel happier about the shortage of business if they read a paper by insurance broker Peter Dale, which foresees defaults multiplying fourfold as a result of the Budget cuts in income support for mortgage interest after October. In many cases, insurance should eventually fill the gap but policies tailored to meet this new risk have yet to be designed, let alone marketed.

Guardian Royal says insurance must reorganise

BY SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange, the composite insurance group, said yesterday that the industry has to reorganise in the face of falling margins and a downturn in the insurance cycle.

The company has made an unexpected £28 million exceptional charge against 1994 profits to cover reorganisation costs in the UK, where more than 500 jobs are to be cut, of which 400 are to go on the general insurance side over the next two years, reducing the general workforce by 10 per cent. A further 100 jobs are going at head office and among information technology staff.

The exceptional charge also covers reorganisation at Albionia, the German operation, and the company's American operations. The life side is not immune to job cuts, but the £11 million associated cost is absorbed by the life fund.

Despite the exceptional charge, GRE's trading profits leapt 63 per cent in the year to December 31, rising from £183



Robins warning

million to £298 million. The final dividend, payable on July 3, was lifted to 5.4p, making a total of 8.25p, up 8.6 per cent on last year.

The advances were better than the market expected and the shares rose 4p to 177p. John Robins, recently installed as chief executive, said: "I am pleased that the strong trading position has been maintained throughout 1994, with all major territories contributing to our significant advance in trading profit."

GRE takes unrealised as well as realised investment

gains against profits and as a result it made a pre-tax loss of £75 million, compared with a £751 million profit last time. The sharp deterioration reflects a £373 million investment loss in 1994, caused by the fall in world investment markets during the first half, against a £568 million gain in 1993.

The picture is brighter at the underwriting level. The general insurance operations made an underwriting profit of £15 million against a loss of £119 million last time. This is a sharp turnaround in fortunes.

The UK, the group's largest territory, lifted general insurance trading profits from £74 million to £160 million, while Albionia made a trading profit of £14 million, against a loss of £13 million last time.

Guardian Direct, the direct insurance operation launched last March, has 31,000 policyholders, slightly fewer than the target of 40,000-50,000.

The life operation lifted operating profits by £2 million to £25 million on premium income up from £758 million to £862 million.

Tempus, page 28

CentreGold shares slump after profit warning

SHARES in CentreGold slumped 37p to 60p after the computer and video games distributor issued a profits warning, wiping nearly £16 million off the company's market value.

CentreGold, floated on the stock market at 125p a share in October 1993, will report an interim loss of about

£3.6 million in the six months to January. The company, which made a pre-tax profit of £4 million in its last full year, will see its interim dividend (0.8p) last time.

Trading has been adversely affected by "a significant setback in demand for cartridge video games in the

European and American markets". First-half sales fell to about £41 million from £53 million. Stock provisions will amount to £2.9 million.

The company blames excess supply in a competitive market, which eroded margins during the Christmas period. There is also consumer resistance to

purchasing older technologies ahead of the launch of video games hardware systems using CD technologies. Last October, Geoff Brown, chief executive, cut his stake in the company to 29 per cent, raising £1.36 million after he sold 1.38 million shares at 98p. Tempus, page 28

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Dye maker begins review of business

BY NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

YORKSHIRE CHEMICALS, the specialist dyes and tanning chemicals group, has started a fundamental review of its business, looking at ways of expanding it in the second half of the decade. The group announced the review after publishing record profits of £14.4 million for 1994, up 10 per cent.

Phillip Lowe, the chairman, said that the review had been prompted by the company's rate of expansion. Yorkshire plans to expand its dyes manufacturing plant at its Leeds site towards the end of the year, but will soon run out of space at its existing site. The review will decide whether to open a new site or move completely.

The company's profit growth stalled in the second half because of strong price competition in the dyes business. Yorkshire also suffered the loss of £5 million turnover and \$350,000 profit after it closed its chemicals

merchandising business in the US at the start of 1994.

Yorkshire's turnover rose by 7 per cent in 1994, to £120 million. Earnings per share also increased by 7 per cent, to 22.5p.

The group is paying a 5.85p final dividend on April 6, to make 8.6p, up by 6 per cent.

Tempus, page 28



Lowe: record profits

AIM wins boost from tax ruling

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

THE Alternative Investment Market (AIM), the new market for shares in smaller companies that is due to start on June 19, has received a tax boost with an announcement by Sir George Young, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, that securities dealt in the AIM will be treated as unquoted securities for tax purposes.

This means that various tax reliefs remain available to companies moving from dealings under Rule 42 to the AIM, and become available to those companies formerly dealt on the Unlisted Securities Market that decide to be dealt on the AIM rather than seek a full listing.

The tax reliefs that are available to unquoted securities include inheritance tax relief, capital gains tax relief, investment relief, and reliefs under the Enterprise Investment Scheme and Venture Capital Trusts.

Sedgwick advances 34%

BY OUR INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SEDGWICK Group, the insurance broking group, yesterday said pre-tax profits leapt 34 per cent to £94.4 million in the year to December 31.

Sax Riley, chief executive, said the growth endorsed the group's strategy put in place three years ago. "Our strategy will continue to be one of expansion — through organic growth, cross-selling, acquisitions when the right opportu-

nities arise, and through venturing into new and complementary markets," he said.

The final dividend, payable on March 16, was lifted to 3.5p, making a total for the year of 6.5p, up from 6p last time. The dividend is being paid out of earnings of 11p a share, up 22 per cent from last time in spite of the issue of new shares. The shares rose 2p to 162p.

The group made an £18.1 million exceptional charge to cover write-off of property and IT costs and run-off costs. These were offset by exception-

al disposal profits of £18.2 million. Brokerage and fees rose 17 per cent to £888.7 million, of which underlying sales growth was 3 per cent. Interest and investment income fell 15 per cent to £42.6 million, reflecting the good bond profits made in 1993.

Overall expenses increased 15 per cent to £329.1 million, of which 14 percentage points reflect the acquisition of Noble Lowndes, the consultancy benefits company, in 1993. As a result, underlying expenses advanced 1 per cent.

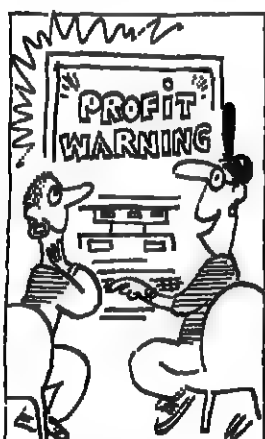
THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Shaken...
and stirred

I REALLY wouldn't wish one on my worst enemy, but there is nothing quite like an earthquake to wake, and shake, up a conference. Last week, more than 500 delegates, politicians and ambassadors, including Oliver Miles, Our Man in Greece, attended a two-day conference on "Greece and the Balkans Business Co-operation" in Thessaloniki, northern Greece. For some, that's riveting and the stuff of bedside reading. The day started early enough. Lunch was a grand occasion. But some heads were nodding as George Rombos, Greece's Alternate Minister of National Economy, got into his stride, waxing about a transport and telecommunications network in the region. Come 3.17pm and dust and bits of plaster started to fall from the ceiling. An earthquake measuring between 4.7 and 5 on the Richter scale was in the making! My shaken, rattled and rolled colleague reports that, after initial confusion, the speaker carried on as if nothing had happened. "But, everybody did suddenly seem to be more awake and alert," he mused.

Magnum force

FOUND! One magnum of Krug 1975. After yesterday's note about the hunt for a Krug magnum, Keith Walter, vice-president, private banking division, Chase Manhattan Bank, rose from his breakfast table, looked in his cupboard, and — hey presto — drew out a 1975 Krug magnum. "I've had it for 15 years and planned to drink it in the summer." Sensitive price negotiations are now under way.



'It's a new game from CentreGold'

Credit due

THERE are four girls at Credit Suisse who may never need to work again. Typists in a syndicate, two of them temps, were among nine winners of Saturday's National Lottery which scooped them £987,022. "The two temps are not expected back at work. The other two have been given the week off," said a bank spokesman who still needs to work.

Cir collective

IT MIGHT not be Mastermind, but it is an amusing way to while away the lunch hour. The new fad in town is hurling collective nouns around. Such as: A squeal of Lloyd's Names A float of dawn raiders A goat of privatised industry chairmen A nod and wink of insider dealers A poisoned chalice of chancellors A sillimetre of Eurocrats (fruit and veg department). Any more ideas? Please write.

All you need...

IF YOU are 34 and a day, a minority shareholder in a business, or have a turnover of £1 million then you're not wanted at the Young Entrepreneurs Organisation. The London branch of YEO is anxious to increase its membership from 15 — but only if you are under 34, own your own business and can boast a turnover of more than £1 million.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Britain against the world in UN employment debate

Dole queues are shorter, but UK job policies are under fire, says Philip Bassett

Little Johnnie will again be the only one out of step today. The latest searching international study on jobs and unemployment across the world prescribes solutions with which most countries will find it relatively easy to live — except the UK.

British ministers wedded to the notion of ever-deregulated labour markets as the way to promote jobs will take pride at being out of line. They are likely to shrug off the interventionist prescriptions of the report by the United Nations International Labour Office, and to point to the sustained and unexpectedly early fall in unemployment in the UK over the past two years, and signs now of increasing job growth, as testament to the success of the Government's labour market policies.

Though ministers claim that some countries, such as Spain, are coming more into line with the Government's insistence on deregulation, most employment analysts acknowledge that the gap between Britain's approach and the policies of most countries is wide.

That gap is likely to be reinforced by the UN world social summit in Copenhagen, for which ministers and job specialists from around the globe will be arriving in Denmark from the end of next week.

Michael Portillo, Britain's highly deregulatory Employment Secretary, who only this week condemned "tricksters" pushing "schemes, ruses or some clever-clever ideas" to solve unemployment, is unlikely to head for Denmark, and his deputy, Ann Widdecombe, may well be supplanted by Baroness Chalker, Overseas Development Minister — though John Major is expected at a UN summit to close the conference.

The free-market Mr Portillo is unlikely to warm to the summit outcome. His draft conclusion commits UN countries "to enabling all people to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely-chosen productive employment and work, and to maintain the goal of full employment", as well as to achieving equality, promoting social integration and eradicating poverty.

Appearing on a trade union platform at a conference to promote full employment — a concept with which Labour leaders, let alone Conserva-



Sources: ILO World Unemployment Report 1995

tives, are uneasy — saw Mr Portillo's predecessor, David Hunt, moved from his job, and the social summit's planned embrace of the idea may be more than UK employment ministers can stomach.

Equally so with today's ILO report, since re-adoption of the goal of full employment is its central policy prescription. Michel Hansenne, the ILO's Director-General, says that, although the post-war universal commitment to full employment has been eroded, "it is important and timely to revive that commitment".

He says: "Its weakening has led to worsening employment conditions and foreclosed national and international actions that could have made a difference. Its revival will provide the basis for the renewed international co-operation that is so essential for solving the employment crisis."

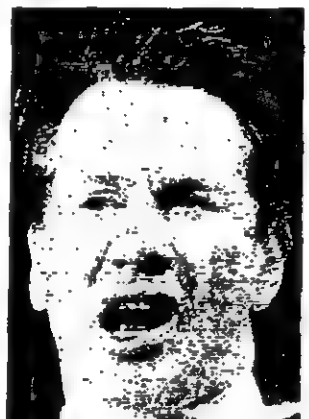
The ILO report is timed to help to set the agenda for Copenhagen, which the ILO sees as "a unique and timely opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to full employment and to signal the importance of launching new initiatives to deal with the mounting global employment problem and attendant social ills".

Conservatives tend to dismiss the ILO as a bleeding-heart body. The ILO officials who wrote today's report, however, tried to counter such a view by beginning not from the ILO's traditional starting-point of social justice, but from hard-edged economics. "The unemployment problem is the No 1 issue of the day in terms of social policy," says Eddy Lee, the principal author, "and the ILO has been relatively silent."

Clearly trying to place the

study in the mainstream line of recent international jobs analyses from the OECD and the European Commission, the ILO's report team uses extensive research, including CBI work on long-term unemployment, to demonstrate the "formidable" challenge of restoring full employment around the world. While acknowledging that there is "no simple or painless solution" to unemployment, the ILO rejects the "defeatist" view that nothing can be done.

"The current employment



Portillo: a record

situation represents an enormous waste of resources and an unacceptable level of human suffering," it says. "It has led to growing social exclusion, rising inequality between and within nations, and a host of social ills. It is thus both morally unacceptable and economically irrational."

In line with its claim to be the first study to tackle jobs and unemployment on a world basis — last year's OECD Jobs Study looked only at major industrialised countries — much of the ILO work

concerns emerging countries, and the impact on jobs of globalisation and changing technology and trade patterns.

While it charts "consistently spectacular" growth in South-East Asia, it is gloomy about the economic marginalisation of Africa, and the "appalling" growth of poverty and long-term unemployment in the transition economies of East and Central Europe since the break-up of the Soviet Union.

In spite of this global focus, it is the report's policy prescriptions for jobs in industrialised nations that are likely to provoke most argument — especially from UK ministers, since it broadly rejects the deregulatory labour market approach that the Government has followed since 1979.

The ILO urges a "co-ordinated expansionary strategy" for producing economic growth sufficient to bring Europe and other industrialised countries back to full employment, including co-ordinated reduction of short-term interest rates, a cut in employers' social contributions and direct budgetary stimulation, such as lower taxes or increased public spending — though it accepts that the convergence terms of the Maastricht treaty leave European countries little freedom over budgetary policy.

However, aside from its overall prescription of the re-adoption of full employment as the overriding international economic goal and the "primary objective" of policies on global trade, finance and investment, the principal impact on Britain of the ILO report is likely to be its rejection of labour market deregulation.

Citing the UK and, to some extent, New Zealand as com-

ing closest to a full "experiment" in deregulation, the study argues that "in neither... has deregulation resulted unambiguously in improved labour market performance".

It says that "a purely (or mainly) deregulatory route to greater labour market flexibility will not be a panacea" for unemployment and "is likely to involve a trade-off in terms of greater inequality and poverty".

Deregulation involves "sacrifice" of what the ILO lists as "considerable benefits which flow from an appropriately regulated labour market", including the likelihood of training, and increasing productive efficiency through competition incentives that flow more from product market than labour market policies.

The ILO believes that the impact on jobs of minimum wages is "insignificant"; that strong workplace employee bodies will lead to greater productivity; and that international labour standards, such as those from Brussels opposed by the UK, are vital if globalisation is to proceed "benignly".

Little, if any, of this will be music to the Government's ears — though most will be unexceptional to most ILO countries. Copenhagen will sound further tunes that British ministers will not like.

None of it, however, will divert the Government from its particular conduct of the labour market. With British unemployment now down by close on 600,000, or 20 per cent, since its peak at the end of 1992, at the same time as it is continuing to rise in many similar industrialised countries, ministers will rest on their record, regardless of how out of step international scepticism may view them.



ANTHONY HARRIS

US slowdown: two views called Alan

The recent rally in the US bond market reflects a growing Wall Street view that the Fed has got it right: the unsustainably rapid growth seen in 1994 will end in a soft landing. Some statistics have been suggesting as much for the past three months, and the most recent inflation figures have been encouraging: but what seems to have encouraged investors most is an assessment from a recent recruit to the Fed Board of Governors, Alan S. Blinder. The risks for the economy, he announced, now looked more symmetrical than for some time. If he spoke for the Board as a whole, that would be a clear sign that the next move in rates was now as likely to be down as up.

But Blinder is no, the most influential Alan on the Fed Board: so the markets will have listened even more closely than usual to Alan Greenspan, the Chairman, when he gave his Humphrey-Hawkins evidence on the economy to Congress. They will no doubt have been as frustrated as usual: Greenspan is a past master at a folksy frankness that gives away nothing. But ambiguity will not still the suspicion that he is much less relaxed about the prospect than his colleague. Not perhaps Alan the Terrible, as Robert Brusca of Nikko Securities christened him this week (in contrast to Alan the Soft), but at the very least Alan the Unready.

There is good reason for hesitation. Only two slow-down indicators are wholly clear: the steep fall in house sales and housing starts, down some 15 per cent from their peak, and the renewed airline price warfare. This is now so desperate that the operators are risking strife with their own ticket agents. It has already led to ordering delays and layoffs in the aircraft factories. Other signs fall into the sigh-of-relief class. Base metal prices have relaxed by more than 10 per cent, but are still hugely up on an annual measure. The steel industry, which tried to raise prices 10 per cent in January, is yielding to customer resistance, but prices are still up. Most indicators, though,

show an economy levelling out on a high plateau. Retail sales have barely inched up during the last quarter, but are some 8 per cent up on 1994 in real terms. Car sales are short of Detroit hopes, but still near a record, as are most consumer durables. Investment spending and exports remain strong. It is all a little like measuring your children's height monthly on the bathroom door: informative, but hard to extrapolate. It is too early to be sure whether demand has turned sluggish, or is simply pausing for breath, as it usually does at some stage during a strong US expansion.

Where facts are hard to read, theory is the full-back guide, and both Greenspan (a real-economy man) and his monetarist colleagues can find reason for doubt. The Fed's measure of capacity utilisation still shows rising strain; so do anecdotes of shortages of containers and the ships to move them. Commercial bank lending growth accelerated to a 7.6 per cent growth rate in the latest three months, and finance company credit (mainly to consumers) to a 13.5 per cent rate in the quarter ended last December. No. 1 of this suggests a soft landing.

All the same, the bond market looks optimistic, and could be justified. Industrial capacity is an estimate, not an objective measure; and in the US, as in this country, it seems more elastic than past experience might suggest. Commercial credit is downright ambiguous: rising borrowing may mean expansion, but can equally reflect disappointing sales, as unwanted stocks have to be financed. Consumer confidence has softened sharply since the turn of the year, and borrowing may follow.

The biggest imponderable is the impact of economic stringency in America's two biggest export markets, Mexico and Canada. Canada is soft, and Latin American demand may well have fallen off a cliff for the time being. The odds, then, seem to favour the Blinder view. But it is still a matter of odds: backing the US market recovery is a measured risk.

Joanna Pitman says South Korea favours UK investment

The Samsung octopus spreads its tentacles into Britain

First-time visitors arriving at South Korea's International Airport in Seoul are invariably astonished to discover that they have been driven into town on a road built by Samsung, are staying in a hotel owned by Samsung, make calls on a Samsung telephone via a telecom network owned by Samsung, watch a Samsung television, eat food processed by Samsung and write letters home on paper made by Samsung.

In their leisure hours they may visit a Samsung department store, glance at a Samsung-owned newspaper, watch a professional Samsung football team in action or visit a Samsung-owned museum.

The Samsung Group is one of South Korea's industrial conglomerates known as *chaebol*, set up in the 1930s and modelled on Japan's giant industrial groupings. They incorporate a vast spread of industrial and business activities covering high technology, heavy industry, manufacturing, service industries and cultural and social activities.

The *chaebol* have recently become particularly relevant to Britain because we may soon be able to sample the enormous ranges of Samsung products and services, or those of Hyundai or Goldstar, without having to fly to Seoul.

Last October, Samsung Electronics announced the largest direct investment by a South Korean company in Britain with the development of a £600 million complex in Teesside which will begin producing personal computer monitors and microwave ovens in Au-



Samsung factories manufacture a vast range of goods from paper to electronics

gust and, from early 1997, fax machines, colour display tubes and personal computers.

The investment, which is expected to bring more than 3,000 new jobs to the region, is only one of a variety of direct investments in Britain made in the past few years by component companies within Samsung, the fourteenth largest industrial group in the world. The first was in 1986, when Samsung Electronics put £17 million into a colour TV manufacturing plant in Billingham.

Other South Korean industrial groups are also looking to Britain. Daewoo Electronics,

part of the Daewoo *chaebol*, has put £35 million into a manufacturing plant in Antrim, Northern Ireland, which employs 700 people producing video cassette recorders.

In 1988, Goldstar Electric, another of the top four *chaebol* and ranked by *Fortune* magazine as the 31st largest electronics maker worldwide, invested £3 million in a manufacturing plant, in Tyne and Wear, which now produces 200,000 microwave ovens a year.

For South Korean investors the language factor weighs heavily in favour of Britain as opposed to Germany. France

or other EU countries. As long as the South Korean economy continues to grow and the *chaebol* continue to follow that fashionable if expensive strategy of going global, South Korean investments in Britain are likely to continue.

Given that the Japanese investment wave brought karaoke to our pubs, Sumo wrestling to our television screens and a huge choice of dried seaweeds to our corner shops, it will not be long before gourmet trendsetters are agonising over the choice of kimchi pickles for their dinner party tables.

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Big players are muscling in as they are attracted to both domestic and international private banking, reports **Patricia Tehan**

Private banks are victims of their own success. They have proved to be such fantastic profit-generators, so adaptable to changes in their market place, and so responsive to customer needs, that they have attracted growing competition from new rivals.

Private bankers say it is becoming increasingly difficult to work out who their competitors are as high street banks, merchant banks, overseas banks, fund managers, accountants and lawyers compete to provide asset management services and financial advice to wealthy customers.

Until very recently private banking has been a fragmented market, with strong domestic players dominating their home markets, growing their business slowly, with new business coming from personal recommendation.

But this is changing as banking markets are deregulated and customers increasingly expect more in the way of both service and products from their banks. In the UK the wealth of the population is growing as people inherit money and property from their parents.

Big players are muscling in to both domestic and international private banking, bringing more capital and therefore more competition. At the end of last year Deutsche Bank announced its intention to become one of Europe's pre-eminent private banks.

A survey due next month from Price Waterhouse's management consultancy is expected to show that private banks see competition as their biggest threat. However, Ian Woodhouse, the author of Price Waterhouse's European Private Banking Survey, says the turmoil in the bond and equity markets last year, and the fall in the value of funds under management, have also been a cause for concern for private banks.

George Alford, head of private banking at Kleinwort Benson, says that it has become harder to identify competitors. He says: "There has been a sense in some parts of the industry that the private area is more profitable than other areas in which banks have not been so successful. The industry has a long tradition of swinging from one fashionable market to another and back again."

Kleinwort set up its private banking division in 1989 by drawing together its banking and investment products businesses, though it had been offering investment management and mortgage services to individuals through different parts of the group for many years.

However, Mr Alford adds: "We use the term private banking less publicly now because it is a term that has been taken downmarket by lots of people rushing in and trying to put a label on standards of



James Cooper, chief executive of Lloyds Private Banking: high street banks are working hard to keep their wealthy customers

In search of a niche in the market-place

service which we do not think are high enough."

Typically, the merchant banks do not offer personal bank accounts, but sell investment services.

Mr Alford says Kleinwort is investing new products all the time. Kleinwort launched a high-interest cheque account in 1984. Its new Investor's Deposit Account, earning returns linked to the performance of the stock market and tried out as a pilot last year, is to be launched to all customers in April.

Private banking has become a hot topic for British banks. When it canvassed its 320 members to find out how many had private banking

interests, the British Bankers' Association was surprised when 65 registered interest. At the end of last year it set up a new advisory committee.

For the very wealthy, private banking is no longer a domestic affair.

A spokeswoman for the BBA said that private banks' customers are increasingly interested in things other than domestic stocks and domestic deposits. "It is a reflection of the increasing international investment profile of clients that international private banking is becoming an issue," she says.

Customers are expecting more from their banks. They expect more

portfolio management and in-house investment funds, as well as foreign exchange expertise. Products are becoming more global, which makes it more costly for the banks to do business as a result of higher staff and infrastructure costs and a squeeze on margins.

As customers become more financially aware, they are also becoming more demanding. Nicholas Grant, chairman of Duncan Lawrie, the UK private bank, says: "Customers are getting more sophisticated all the time. They are no longer happy just to have their money sitting in a Swiss bank account earning next to nothing. They want to see more return."

As investors' interest in emerging markets and global capital markets grows, private banking products are becoming more global and more complex. Internationally, private banking is a growth business.

As new sources of wealth are created in the Far East and the former Soviet Union, international private banks will be successful only if they can understand the structural changes in their market place.

In fact, the Swiss banks, notably UBS and Credit Suisse, are becoming more aggressive. Mr Woodhouse says that the Swiss bank operations used to be able to sit back and wait for money to flow in. "Now they are having to be more aggressive in terms of going out and seeking wealth and identifying the needs of their customers," he says.

The high street banks, which have in the past lost their wealthy clients to private banking rivals, are now working much harder to keep them.

Lloyds moved into the domestic private banking market ten years ago and launched Lloyds Private Banking in 1992. Barclays and Midland have newer private banking operations. National Westminster is more established in private banking than the others, with its separately branded Coutts.

When a banker needs to be like the family doctor

A private bank stands or falls by the quality of its service. Fees are normally of secondary importance to a wealthy client impressed by cachet and seeking sophisticated discretionary portfolio management.

Nor, given his high tax liability, is a client likely to worry about the interest which a few thousand pounds might earn in a building society instead.

So the personal touch is everything. Every client is assigned his own relationship manager whose subtle blend of charm, prudence and authority will, it is hoped, assure a client's continuing loyalty.

According to a recent survey by the accountants Price Waterhouse, service quality and brand image are the key factors attracting new clients.

Apparently 14 per cent of clients who walk out on their private bank do so because they are dissatisfied with its service. This may not seem an enormous proportion, but in today's competitive climate, established private banks are under pressure to add value to current levels of client support through staff training and development.

They cannot afford to rest on their laurels and they know it. But finding and keeping qualified staff with the special personal qualities needed to promote happy client relationships is not easy.

Roy French, private banking manager at Child & Co, stresses the importance of low staff turnover. Most clients like to see their relationship manager as philosopher, guide and friend, and feel disoriented by change. Continuity and stability make clients feel secure, as does a measure of maturity. "We look for maturity in our staff," says Mr French. "We wouldn't dream of assigning a 20, or even a 30-year-old to deal with a middle-aged or elderly customer."

Background and education can vary, essentially it is personal qualities rather than paper qualifications that make a successful private banker. Child & Co is fortunate in being able to call on the resources of its parent, the Royal Bank of Scotland.

"Our tax expert comes from the RBS Trust and Tax department," Mr French says. "Another recruit spent his early years in offshore companies in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and others we have bred ourselves, recruiting straight from school or university."

Some newcomers to private banking are pushing hard to recruit staff with established reputations in the older banks. And American

which pay generously for high performance, are also targeting top relationship officers at traditional British banks. Coutts is directly in their sights.

Warwick Newbury, who heads Coutts's UK private banking operations, is confident, however, that the old firm can repel head-hunters' with competitive salaries.

"We are also head-hunting relationship managers," he says. Coutts employs 75 of such managers (it has about 30 product managers). Mr Newbury looks for the unglamorous quality of common sense and the tact and sensitivity of a good GP. A sense of timing is also useful. "to know at what point in a consultation to refer a client to a specialist more qualified to advise on perhaps a mortgage scheme or pension plan."

The fear of losing valuable staff to competitors is making relative newcomers like Lloyds and Barclays, as well as Coutts, introduce more performance-related pay. Coutts has also upgraded its bonus scheme. Child & Co will follow suit.

DAVID RUDNICK



Warwick Newbury: "We are head-hunting"

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Challenging the old guard

The number of private banks has mushroomed over the past decade to cater for the new rich who flourished in the freeboobing 1980s. David Rudnick writes.

The youngest market debutante is Midland Private Banking, which opened its first branches last July. "Long-established players are not necessarily best placed to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the distribution of wealth across a greater number of individuals," says the head of marketing, Lucy Weldon. Midland believes strongly in opening offices all over the country to provide a local service for private clients.

Two of the other main clearers, Barclays and Lloyds, have opened private banking subsidiaries over the past few years. All are attracted by returns well above recent levels in retail banking. Barclays, established just over 18 months ago, uses its extensive international network to maximise the investment potential of private banking funds in the UK. Barclays expect clients to have at least £250,000 of investable assets - a high figure compared with Lloyds' £75,000. Midland's £100,000, or even Coutts's £150,000. According to Heather Maizels, Barclays' UK private banking director: "They are targeting a different market with their lower minimum thresholds. Our average balances are over £1 million."

Lloyds also has an upmarket service catering for high net-worth individuals in the £250,000-plus bracket. The service is geared towards investment management, which Lloyds claims accounts for about two-thirds of the £6 billion of private banking funds it has under management.

Though private banking may still be modest in scale compared with the whole retail banking sector, it already provides a respectable income for the high street banks. But critics wonder whether they are not shooting themselves in the foot by wooing wealthy customers away from their own retail branches to their new private banks.

James Cooper, chief executive at Lloyds Private Banking, says: "We are only taking away investment banking and

The high street banks are branching out into a venerable sector

other planning and advisory work that our retail branches wouldn't touch anyway."

Midland branch managers are asked to introduce appropriate customers to private banking, but Ms Weldon says the branches continue to share the client relationship. "They still provide day-to-day services to Midland Private Banking clients, like paying in cheques and withdrawing money. Also, private banking offices are located within an existing branch or local area office, and our private banking profit is reported as an integral part of Midland

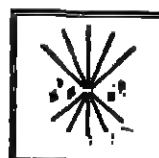
branch banking's profits."

National Westminster, the other main UK clearer, has a powerful stake in private banking through its ownership of Coutts. NatWest itself is offering relationship banking services through branch-based personal account executives. "This is not private banking in the true sense," a spokesman said, "since we are aiming at lower net-worth customers. But we do offer financial advice and similar products to people whose income and assets don't measure up to Coutts's requirements."

NatWest's minimum annual income benchmark is about £35,000 for "up and coming clients" with a minimum capital of around £85,000.

What do the old guard think of all these parvenus? On the whole they accept the need to shake off their elitist old school tie image and open their doors to a wider public.

However, Richard Hoare, a director of Hoare & Co, one of Britain's oldest and most venerable private banks, and the only one still in family hands, finds it deplorable that "a lot of people who call themselves private bankers are nothing of the sort: they are merely trying to sell financial products, mainly fund management, and pass it off as private banking."



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Banking

Too busy for school run? Send the financial adviser

A private banker can be a maid of all work to the rich: broker, fund manager, custodian, lender — even nanny. David Rudnick writes. Clients are increasingly offered a "one-stop" service, which might include the collection of interest and dividends, trading securities and holding them in safe custody, finding the most tax-efficient ways of making a will, and generally providing a personally-tailored service to suit a client's needs.

Nothing is too much trouble. Lloyds will make hotel bookings and medical appointments; some other banks will collect your children from school or your yacht from Cannes.

But portfolio management is probably the key service: administering a client's income, protecting his assets and helping him to make more from what he has.

Why, though, should a client go to a bank for the whole gamut of specialised financial services when it has less expertise than professional specialists? Surely the sav-

Private bankers can now provide bespoke services for clients from writing a will to collecting the family yacht

ing in time and inconvenience may be outweighed by getting a second-best service?

The question is taken seriously. "We never go further than our capabilities," says Roy French, private banking manager at Child & Co. "We know who to turn to for expert advice, even though we employ specialists ourselves."

James Cooper, chief executive at Lloyds Private Bank, adds: "We can access specialist services in tax management, will preparation and administration, and trustee services — though business in the latter has slowed considerably since leaving assets in trust form is much less tax-advantageous than it used to be."

Barclays, a relative newcomer to private banking, defines it as integrated asset management, though Heather Maizels, who directs UK operations, acknowl-

edges that the concept is not always understood. "Traditionally, private clients in the UK have bought their services in a disaggregated way — through a stockbroker for shares, a banker for cash services, a lawyer for trusts and wills, or an accountant for tax and financial planning."

She finds that clients and regulators have difficulty understanding how one individual can deliver all these services.

Integrated asset management can certainly avoid the inconsistent financial planning that may result from conflicting advice from several sources. Against that, entrusting all your assets to a single pair of hands can result in your nominally "independent" mentor putting your funds into his favoured investment or unit trusts. Nick Haynes, head of private portfolio management at Klein-

wort Benson, says candidly: "Normally we do offer in-house funds, particularly our unit trusts — unless clients stipulate otherwise, which occasionally they do."

Kleinwort Benson is one old firm that is responding to the challenge of the big clearing banks with new (or revamped) products. It recently launched a Residential Care Scheme aimed at those compelled by the self-help provisions of the 1993 Community Care Act to fend more for themselves in insuring for their old age.

Specialist insurance services are a burgeoning, fairly new product attuned to the more defensive financial climate of the 1990s. Midland Private Banking, the latest clearing bank on the scene, specifies an insurance background as a desirable qualification for staff. Lucy Weldon, head of marketing, sees "a new trend towards

deposit-based products among individuals who see wealth preservation rather than capital growth as a key objective." On the other hand, James Cooper at Lloyds finds his clients are demanding "a more dynamic approach. The main emphasis is on asset management, rather than wealth preservation."

Already loan business is apparently being downgraded by many, if not most private bankers. Roy French at Child & Co says the depressive effects of recession, combined with more competition caused by the entry of the big clearers, has sharply reduced margins on lending, making it one of the least attractive lines in the business.

"Investment services are probably the most profitable, with good fees to be made from good performance," he says. Barclays also feel its cash management services show particular promise, but, somewhat against the trend, Coutts says lending remains its major product, at least in the UK.



Safe hands: some banks will even collect your child from school

British rich share £120 billion hoard

Private banking is growing as the wealthy increase in number. The global market is expanding at an estimated 16 per cent annually, and individuals with liquid assets exceeding \$1 million dispose of an astronomical \$10 trillion.

All developed countries are sharing in the growth but expansion is particularly strong, says James Cooper, chief executive of Lloyds Private Banking, in the Pacific rim and the United States "which will be a vast market by the end of the decade".

Europe is not expected to show the same dynamic growth, though Switzerland, the traditional safe haven, is still attracting sizeable funds from countries such as Holland and Germany.

In the UK, there are around 1.2 million high-net-worth individuals and their number is rising by more than 5 per cent a year, according to a survey by management consultants Datamonitor. Its definition of high-net-worth is generous: it takes £30,000 in liquid assets as the threshold, though most private banks insist on their clients owning considerably more.

On that broad basis around £120 billion is in play, a startling 45 per cent of it held by about half a million elderly people owning on average £100,000 of liquid assets. The survey considers most older people to be financially unso-

The number of well-off people in the world is growing, says David Rudnick

phisticated, but as the UK population ages they are expected to provide a built-in market growth factor — once they are systematically targeted.

Next in importance, with 12 per cent of the potential market, come inheritors of property who choose to sell it and invest the lump sum. There are more than 100,000 of them with £76,000 on average to play with. This is low for most private bankers but the category is growing.

"Young people inheriting parents' and relations' funds will accelerate demand for private banking services, but much will depend on growth in house prices," says Mr Cooper. On the other hand, he adds, old people are living longer and needing to spend more of their own money on health care and general living expenses, leaving less to their heirs.

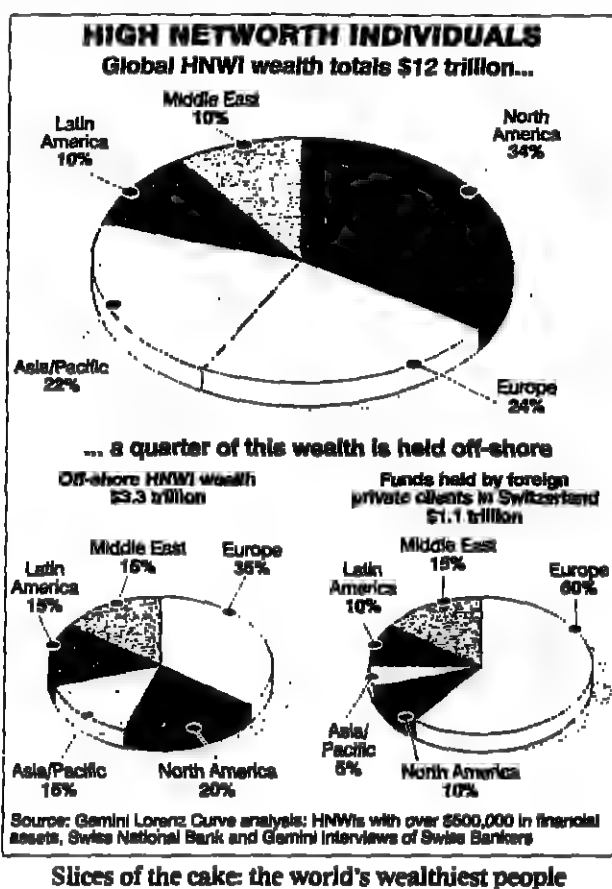
On the supply side, banks say they have been attracted into the market as the returns on retail banking have fallen. "Private banking requires little capital and the added value

from services offered can benefit both client and bank," explains Mr Cooper.

But isn't the market getting overcrowded with new players moving in? Not at all, says Warwick Newbury, head of Coutts' UK private banking operations. "The market remains largely untapped. A lot of new players are coming in but there have been no drop-outs in recent years."

Some Swiss banks, however, have come and gone. "They have not found the UK scene too congenial," Mr Newbury says. "It's too equity oriented for their taste, different from the bond-based culture they're used to."

The unruffled, old-world charm of private banking could soon be an outmoded cliché as gentlemen and new players mix it in a tougher market place peopled by a much less exclusive clientele.



Critical time for City banks

Merchant banks are more flexible about their clients

Merchant banks are facing what is likely to be one of the most critical periods in their 150-year existence.

Huge financial losses caused by volatile global equity and bond markets during 1994, coupled with a dramatic drop in all-round trading prospects for this year, have forced these hitherto lofty City institutions to rethink their business strategy. And private clients could lead the way back to corporate recovery.

A report published this month by Datamonitor, the management consultancy, predicts that trading for merchant banks is expected to fall this year. It says: "Overall trading revenues are likely to be significantly down on the previous year with losses for some banks. Consequently, capital markets will decline as a proportion of overall operating income."

The report continues: "Trading activities are the linchpin of merchant banking revenues, and are the 'make or break' activity for many banks. As a consequence, total operating income is likely to be lower than last year."

Nor can merchant banks

rely solely on a steady stream of fee income from corporate finance work to bolster their fortunes, although this type of activity is expected to pick up this year, as is corporate banking. But new company issues, another source of business for merchant banks, face a testing time when they make their stock market debut. As Datamonitor points out: "Oversupply, high prices and problems with newly floated stock trading below offer price created nervousness in the markets in late 1994, and may have tempered some of this growth."

In the face of such a future, however, the more far-sighted merchant banks have turned their attention to managing other people's money: a preserve more generally associated with the traditional fund management institutions and life companies.

Tom Cross Brown, chief executive of Lazard Investors, part of Lazard Brothers, says that although his part of the Lazard empire is "still very much under the umbrella of a merchant bank" it is the intention that it will become increasingly important as a profit centre for the parent.

Traditionally, Lazard has preferred its private clients to have at least £1 million. That is no longer the case. Mr Cross Brown says: "We are much more flexible nowadays and a figure of £700,000 is perfectly adequate. On the one hand asset management is about looking after institutional money on behalf of pension funds and charities and that is a very competitive market. On the other, it is managing the financial affairs of private clients, which includes estate and inheritance planning just as much as it does making sure that the person has made proper pension provision."

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DANCE page 38

Prix de Lausanne: one of the world's top ballet competitions takes its entrants to the Bolshoi

ARTS

THEATRE page 39

Stephen Rea takes time off from Hollywood to play Uncle Vanya in Northern Ireland



A film-maker for our time?

A *Natural Born Killers* comes to Britain, David Robinson hears Oliver Stone's free-flowing views on murder, morality and movie-making

After months of widely publicised hesitation by the Board of Film Classification, Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers* opens Britain on Friday. So how is the American film-maker finally persuaded British censors to relent? "It wasn't a matter of relenting," he explains. "The true story is that Mr Frun, the secretary of the board, was always very 'advisive' of the film. He thought it was a breakthrough and wanted it to be seen."

The issues were first that there was a division in the board — several of the others dislike the film — and then the matter of timing. The tabloid came out with the copycat murder theories, alleging that 12 murders had been inspired by the film, at the same time that Parliament was discussing violence in the media and the *Child's Play* issue. Mr Frun felt that the convergence of events made it impossible for him to get it through at that time. But when it came to the board, an answer to their questions is to my mind, and he finally passed it during a quiet season over Christmas when everyone was out of town.

"I am like you, living through this time, seeing the absurdity around me"

When I spoke to him, Stone was on his way to Oxford to address the Union. Once he was in his stride, talking at machine-gun rate and turning over his sentences, the interview could have been a rehearsal. It was clear, certainly, that he had said all this not once but many times before.

"The movie is about the hypocrisy of a society and a culture going to hell. In the 1980s we have a society that has become insane. The whole concept of the news itself has been distorted by television. It's become more and more an entertainment, done for money, the concept of O.J. Simpson dominating the airwaves is an amazement to me. Billions of dollars have been made out of it. It's a social issue, because he's taking up the psychic space that should be devoted to news and analysis of world events."

Tony Harding occupied our national consciousness for weeks. It was insane, silly — two women have a cat fight, and the next thing you know it's on a front page of *The New York Times*. A woman cuts off her husband's penis — it was not page news and was not used to make millions of dollars for the networks. This is a continuing hysteria in my country. It is a sickness of the mass hysteria. And that's what I was really interested in *Natural Born Killers*. That's why I made the film in a hysterical fashion: the style appropriates the content of an era gone amok."

But are films like his part

of the problem? "I think that a film, because it takes a year and a half or two years to make, can take a deeper look at an event. It becomes an active interpretation, an artistic action. I believe my movie is not the media. It's more like a painting, an act of interpretation like a Jackson Pollock or Picasso's *Guernica*. I think you will look back on this movie in the year 2020 or 2030 and say this was what the 1990s were about."

The original script for *Natural Born Killers* was by Quentin Tarantino: the combination of the 30-year-old director of *Pulp Fiction* and Stone, 50 next year, might not seem an obvious one. Tarantino's films display a cheerful acceptance of a fin-de-siècle moral chaos, while Stone, as his claims of kinship with Picasso and Pollock suggest, has assumed a positively crusading posture, in films such as *Salvador*, *Platoon*, *Wall Street* and *JFK*.

Before this series of controversial subjects though, he had won a reputation with his violent, male-dominated scripts for *Midnight Express*, *Scarface* and *Year of the Dragon*; he now says that he would have liked to direct the two latter films. "I had been looking to do a criminal movie and finally in the 1990s I have that possibility."

"Quentin had written this script years before. But in his screenplay the central character was the TV journalist, Mickey and Mallory, the killers, who are now my main characters, were only supporting characters. They were unchanging, only symbols. I wanted to go more into their history. And I wanted to explore the culture of violence in our society, with a lot of socio-political imagery."

"I couldn't have directed Quentin's script as it was, brilliant though the idea was. Quentin was very upset that I had rewritten the script, and he has badmouthed the movie everywhere in the world. It is a shame. It hurt us."

But not too much, obviously. "In America we did 50 million dollars, which is amazing, because it is a much misunderstood film, not easily accessible. Our biggest audience was young people, who see that it is an honest film. The theme is that love beats the demon. It's sort of corny but Mickey and Mallory do kiss. They do need each other. It's this sort of Romeo and Juliet theme. Kids respond to that. They think Mickey and Mallory are heroes."

By this time, reeling from Stone's vision of a morality and heroes for the Nineties, I feel foolishly old-world in asking if he is in so many words condoning them. "Well you may say that this is an awful moral standard for young



Oliver Stone on his own film: "*Natural Born Killers* is about the hypocrisy of a society and a culture going to hell"

people. Yes, but you have to look at the relativism in the movie. I agree. 52 murders is something you can never condone. But the truth is that those 52 murders are relative to the mass murders that have occurred in this whole 20th century. I show images of Hitler and Stalin on the back projection. Look at the whole picture. I'm saying. Look at their back story. Look at their parents. Look at what they do. Judge it in the sight of the cosmos. Look at the whole world and the whole century. Mickey and Mallory are the by-product of a century."

"I do not condone murder. I am a Buddhist. I am like you, living through this time, seeing the absurdity around me, the madness. I don't know if I condemn it, I'm not sure I'm

comfortable condemning it because maybe that is the destiny of this era, to take us in that direction."

The moral waters seem to be getting no shallower or clearer. So does he enjoy the kind of controversy that rages around his latest film? "When you get controversies over issues that are non-issues it is bothering. *Natural Born Killers* would have made more money if it had been less controversial. All we heard on this film was about the violence, when really it is the idea of the movie that is subversive — the idea that these people can kill 52 people and get away with it; and that the media are made to seem more evil than the killers."

Stone's next project is also bound to be hotly debated: a

film about Richard Nixon. "I feel we should go back and look at Richard Nixon, at both sides, good and bad. Everything he said in 1946 when he first got elected to a Republican seat has come true. He made politics into war and that's what is happening now. They are fighting to the death with each other. I think he has a lot to say about our era. A very, very contradictory man who hoist himself with his own petard."

The director plans to cast Anthony Hopkins as Richard Nixon. "He will be good because of his invisibility. You can't have a star in that role. You need somebody invisible, a character actor like Kingsley or Hopkins." And just when we had a star of our own.

LONDON CONCERTS

French with a few too many tears

THE recreation of a festival (in this case that of St Nazaire) and all that goes with it — the teeming programmes, the rendezvous of young soloists and chamber musicians from all over Europe — is something the Wigmore Hall now has to a fine art.

This latest *divertissement* is a tribute to the great Belgian violinist and composer Eugène Ysaÿe. He took over where Wieniawski left off, acted as tireless midwife to the rebirth of French music in the 1870s, and ended up performing with the likes of Busoni and Rachmaninov.

If the opening concert was anything to go by, both performers and audiences will be on their knees by the end of the week. There is little relief from the passionate, expansive idiom of these turn-of-the-century works. And, on Saturday at least, there was little in the performances which tempered passion with sophistication, the extrovert with the inward.

Two major works framed the evening: Fauré's Piano Quintet, played by the Chilingirian Quartet and Jeremy Menuhin; and

Ysaÿe Festival
Wigmore Hall

Chausson's Concert in D for violin (Philippe Graffin), piano (Pascal Devoyon) and string quartet (Chilingirian). Both were dedicated to Ysaÿe: both were played with almost overwhelming enthusiasm.

The voice of Ysaÿe himself was heard in Devoyon's and Graffin's performance of the *Poème élégiaque* for violin and piano (dedicated to Fauré). Graffin clearly loves Ysaÿe's music dearly. The burnished quality of his vibrato, and its unique tone, fusing strength with sweetness, made for a stylish opening signature to the series.

And then, the one *bonne bouche* of the evening. Jeremy Menuhin and Pascal Devoyon joined forces mischievously for the Fauré/Messager *Souvenirs de Bayreuth*, a marvelously disrespectful, yet not unaffectionate, salon fantasy for four hands on all the best tunes from *The Ring*.

HILARY FINCH

In order to please

BRAHMS back-to-front is the subject of Christoph von Dohnányi's pair of concerts with the Philharmonia. Hilary Finch writes. The orchestra's principal guest conductor began with the mighty Fourth Symphony and will end next Monday with the First. This is a cunning strategy: the ears are at their most receptive for the most demanding work; Brahms's musical thinking falls into revealing retrospective shape; and preconceptions are given a good dusting out.

So it was that the Fourth became, for once, a lively upbeat to all that was to follow. Dohnányi's approach to the work, characteristically lucid and meticulous of ensemble, emphasised this.

Dohnányi would finely hone the line of the strings at the appearance of the horns, so that, when at last upbeat becomes downbeat, the cutting edge would be razor-sharp. This, in turn, gave the illusion of an extreme pianissimo from strings and wind at the start of the second movement.

The scherzo-like nature of

**Philharmonia/
Dohnányi**
Festival Hall

the third movement was predictable; yet the whiplash of bow on string as its material became more and more compressed still struck unexpectedly. Each of the finale's 32 variations was clearly characterised.

Brahms declared of the Second Symphony that he had "never written anything so sad, and the score must come out in mourning". Dohnányi took him at his word though, typically, he made the music wear its black crepe lightly.

The fine details of articulation in the opening movement created a sense of shifting shades of grey; horns and woodwind breathed into a light, chill air. Although Michael Collins's clarinet was missed in a somewhat unbeguiling third movement, Dohnányi's austere approach was vindicated in a balanced and rhythmic finale.

ARCHITECTURE: Marcus Binney on an exhibition dedicated to an 18th-century pioneer

Building on the past



Burlington's arcadia: the new villa, old house and stables, seen from across the road

motif. If this sounds slavish, this was the century in which Goethe watched the Academy at Vicenza carry the notion "imitation is superior to invention" by a large majority. The apostles of neo-classicism sought to purify art from what they saw as the excesses of the

Baroque by returning to the simplicity of the Antique. Here Burlington had a remarkable 30-year start on almost everyone on the Continent.

As relatively few of the architectural drawings in his collection were labelled or inscribed, Burlington did not

always know what he was using as a model. So the very rich ceiling of the little gallery linking his villa with the adjacent Jacobean house was copied from a drawing of a Roman ceiling at Pozzuoli.

By contrast, the remarkable scrolled ceiling of the Blue

Velvet Room, usually attributed to the designer William Kent because of its voluptuousness, came from a Renaissance design by a Mantuan architect, the wild card in the collection.

Among the most beautiful items in the exhibition are the numerous paintings, drawings and engravings of the Chiswick gardens. These are remarkable for showing the degree of perfection the English lawn had reached even in the early 18th century.

Just as Chiswick House was a Veneto villa in miniature, so the grounds were a microcosm of garden art. Everything that Italy, France and Holland had to offer — topiary, arbours, clipped orange trees, a wilderness and bowling green, statues, urns, grottoes, cascades, fountains and canals — were here, as well as Kent's new notion of informal gardening without "level or line".

● The Palladian Revival: Lord Burlington, his Villa and Garden at Chiswick is at the Royal Academy (0171-439 7438), until April 2

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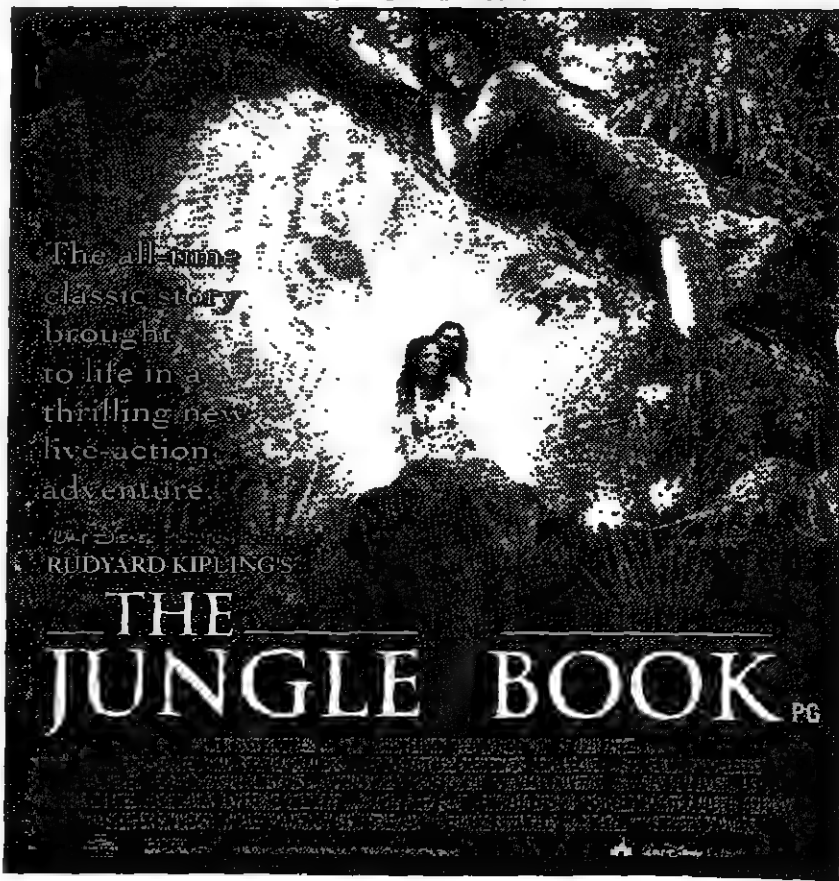
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FINANCIAL TIMES



NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

This Royal Academy exhibition goes far to resolve one of the great riddles of English architecture. Was Richard Boyle, 3rd Earl of Burlington, just an accomplished amateur, like many 18th-century country gentlemen or was he a virtual professional?

One of Burlington's contemporaries, Lord Chesterfield, wrote in a famous letter to his son that if pioneer of English Palladianism had "lessened himself" by getting to know the mechanical parts of architecture so well. Yet Count Algarotti, lining with Frederick the Great, discussed Burlington in the same breath as Palladio and Inigo Jones.

In this exhibition the curator, John Harris, shows that the key to Burlington's career was his "stupendous acquisition" of the drawings of both Jones and Palladio in 1720-21. Four years later he began the design of Chiswick House in west London.

Burlington's method of working was to find a precedent for every detail and

THEATRE: Field Day fights back in Londonderry; a West End outing for Noel Coward; Scottish mooncalf among Australian tigers

Looking a bit pale, Uncle

Uncle Vanya
Guildhall, Derry

The Prudential Arts Award given to Field Day Theatre Company in 1992 honoured its 12 years as a producer of new Irish drama and a commitment to touring, on both sides of the border, that took the company to venues where professional drama seldom reached. Immediately after receiving the award, Field Day declined from its high noon to sudden nightfall. A rehearsed reading was as far as the funding would stretch that year, and in 1993 Stephen Rea (co-founder of the company with Brian Friel) concentrated on his film career — most notably in *The Crying Game*.

Twelve months ago Friel resigned from the board and Field Day looked set permanently for the dark. But the sun has risen again. Rea has taken time off from Hollywood, and Chekhov, the most Irish of foreign writers, is the obvious choice of Field Day's next play.

The company took the risk of inviting the press to the first performance of Frank McGuinness's Irish version, in Peter Gill's production, with Rea shouldering the dramatic, expression hang-dog — in the title role. There have been no previews, nor a preliminary tour. The tour begins next week, and as the production moves on its way to Dublin, Cork, Tralee and ten other Irish venues, finishing at London's Tricycle in April, it may become what it has yet to

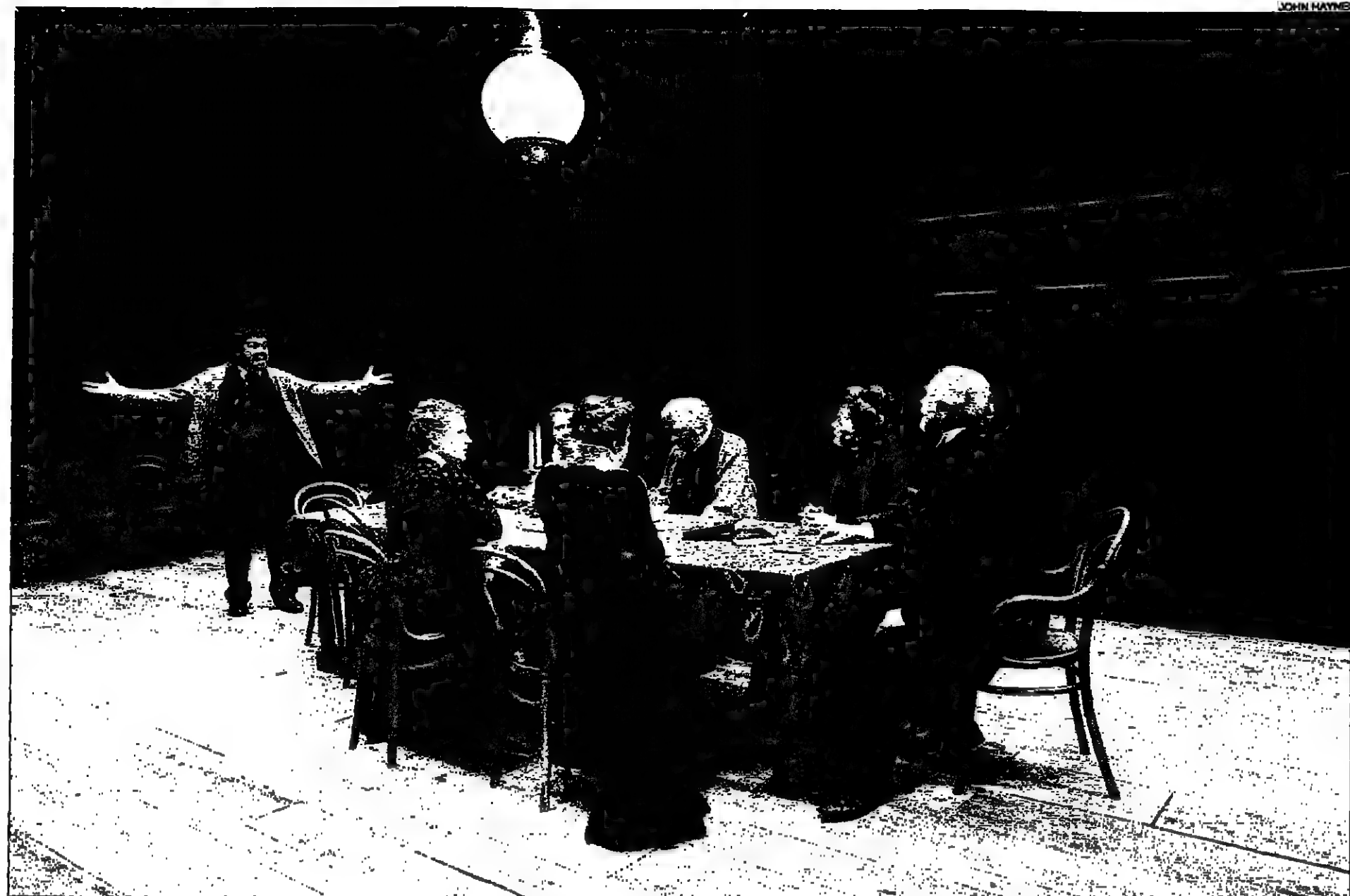
be: deeper and, paradoxically, lighter.

At the moment, this is an excessively dry production. Gill has introduced severe emotional restraints into the play precisely where the reverse is wanted, in the playing of Vanya and Elena, the beautiful young second wife of Sonya's father, whose stay at the family estate provokes such agitation and despair.

Kim Thomson opens with over-deliberate enunciation, and though this could serve as the means for conveying her indolence, it comes with a stiffness that, among other disadvantages, makes it hard to appreciate that she is casting a spell over Vanya and Dr Astrov.

The map-reading scene between her and Enda Oates's Astrov can be considered fanatical and unfeeling — the lines will support this — but to do so is to take the palest view of him.

But then the production takes a pale view of everyone. They are emphatically an irritable lot and seldom allow us to find their complaints also comical. Actors who play Vanya can suggest, through tone of voice, the pain and the absurdity of his late-found attempts to haul his life into something meaningful. Rea is finally moving in his Act IV grief, and he has a funny



Stephen Rea (standing) in the title role of Frank McGuinness's version of *Uncle Vanya*: Field Day's production is too dry and places too many restraints on the emotional content

moment when, asking his censorious mother for advice, he covers her mouth to stop her giving any. But between his own censorious attacks on the hated brother-in-law, he relapses into a credulous posture that often consigns him to the periphery of our attention. The comedy of his entrance

with a bouquet at exactly the wrong moment is lost, and while it is an interesting notion to show triumphant relief at twice failing to shoot Serebryakov (well played by Denis Hawthorne), this response is not integrated into his previous or subsequent behaviour.

McGuinness's text introduces pleasing colloquialisms — Astrov says, "Look at these boys," pointing to his moustaches — and I suppose it is all right to make Vanya follow, "I know there's no chance," — addressed to Elena — with a hopeful "Next to no chance?" though I do not find the

equivalent of this delusion in other versions. But he and Gill have little patience with scenes designed to show the snail-like passing of time. The first and last acts end abruptly, although this may be because the actor playing Telyegin (P. G. Stephens) is reluctant to play his guitar.

The action is played against a frieze of unstained planks of wood, above three blank openings in a green wall, while the floor is another oblong of planks, islanded in bark chips. The men and the older women move silently on this, but not the younger couple, and my lingering impression of this

production is likely to be the sound of Elena and Sonya (Zara Turner, touchingly foolish) click-clock-clacking around each other on what, invisible beneath their long skirts, must surely be high-heeled clogs.

JEREMY KINGSTON

GALLERIES: Somerset Maugham's collection of theatrical paintings

Actors in face paint

After an ill-fated sojourn at the National Theatre, to which it was originally bequeathed, W. Somerset Maugham's collection of theatrical paintings — some 80 oils and watercolours — has arrived at the Theatre Museum (0171-836 7891) — a stone's throw from Drury Lane and Covent Garden, where the players plied their trade in the golden age of British theatre.

And it is where the artists, preying on the vanity of the actors, set up their studios. Samuel De Wilde, one of the painters best represented here, painted hundreds of actors at his Covent Garden office in the 1790s, charging two guineas for a watercolour and up to 12 for an oil.

The pictures are mostly studio portraits, with a background painted in afterwards. Francis Hayman's picture of Garrick as Richard III has him standing astride his fallen horse with rolling fields behind him full of battling soldiers. The artists clearly let their fancies fly as much as the actors (the great Garrick, for example, played Hamlet wearing a wig with a cord attached, so as to have his hair stand on end at moments of high intensity).

If the Georgian age was a golden one for actors, it was a rotten one for plays. Old Restoration comedies such as Vanbrugh's *The Provoked Wife* were standard fare and one has to sympathise with Garrick, who rewrote the play to give himself the opportunity to wear a dress and declaim, "I am Bonduca, Queen of the Welshmen, and



Zoffany's 1768 portrait of Charles Macklin as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*

with a pedigree as long as a leek." Johan Zoffany shows him in full drag, raising a cudgel at cowering onlookers.

Even Shakespeare was most often enjoyed through the barbarous adaptations of Colley Cibber. All four of the Richard IIIs on show — respectively Garrick's, Bannister's, Cooke's and Edmund Kean's — were painted for the Cibber version, and

the comparisons offered by the four pictures bring a difficult question to light. The picture of Kean is of a familiar Richard, sinister, deadly and apparently partially crippled: the picture of George Frederick Cooke is of a fat, jaded poseur in Elizabethan costume. Does this mean Kean's Richard was better, or merely that Cooke's portrait painter was worse?

Rare examples — Macklin as Shylock, Davidge as Malvolio — suggest there may have been some plays worth watching, but this fascinating exhibition generates one bizarre paradox. If the acting was good, then shame on the painters. If the pictures are good then the acting really must have been terrible.

GILES COREN

WORLD MUSIC: Song from Senegal

African pastorage

Baaba Maal
Festival Hall

ders, Baaba Maal glided across the stage like a splendid bird, swooping occasionally as his voice soared in the *daandé* style which the Fulani troubadours have patented.

Sidiki, the first song, was his loveletter to the evening. Dedicated to his bass player, Sidiki Kouyate (a griot, or minstrel-historian), it presented a difficult introduction to an audience which had come in search of more demotic entertainment.

What followed was an exhibition of Baaba Maal and his accomplished musicians of an array of musical styles. A sweet-tempered hymn to Gambia (in which his griot-mentor, Mansour Seck, gave company on the guitar) evoked the bluesy flavour of Ali Farka Touré; the plaintive *Baayo*, from an early album of the same name, was a vehicle for the kora (the Manding

instrument which is a cross between a lute and a harp); and in a beguiling "question and answer" sequence with Massamba Diop on the tam-tam, Diop imitated in percussive "speech" fragments of the song.

Baaba Maal also turned on the salsa tap, in a supple number that was true to his country's own musical history. Cuban dance rhythms dominated Dakar's dance halls until the early 1970s, and the sinewy interventions by the troupe's saxophonist would not have been out of place at a concert by Joe Arroyo or Elio Revé. Nor were they at Baaba Maal's court.

TUNKU
VARADARAJAN

Coward models lingerie

LET'S hope Sean Mathias never gets his hands on Shaw's *Pygmalion*. In his present mood I can see him reacting with knowing cries of "ho, ho" to Professor Higgins's suggestion that he, Colonel Pickering and Eliza should live together like bachelors. His production would end with all three, and maybe Mrs Pearce too, stripped to their Edwardian flannel and launching into something more heated than a lesson in phonetics. That is, after all, pretty well how we leave Leo, Otto and

Design for Living
Gielgud

Gilda in Mathias's revival of Coward's *Design for Living*.

All right, Coward was gay, lived and wrote at a time when the mention of homosexuality was taboo, and, like Wilde and Rattigan, may have expressed his true feelings in dramatic code. But I am sure he would have objected to finding the play's subtext and his own id as comprehensively outed as they are here. I suspect that, fastidious fellow that he was, he would have thought the production a bit crude when it was at the Donmar and in some ways cruder now it has moved, substantially recast, to the West End.

But do the views of even so eminent a corpse matter? I was in two minds about this last summer, and am now in three or four, for the production has strengthened as well as coarsened. The treatment of some supporting characters — a prissy housekeeper, a dim American — is now grotesquely over the top. The last scene is outrageously buffoonish, in its way as phallic as the phallicism it mocks. But the woman in the case seems more sexually central than at the Donmar, where they were in little doubt that it was the men's bond that counted most.

SO, here is this Scottish lad Danny, not yet 18, writhing around in his sleeping-bag in an art gallery in Melbourne, gasping out broken sentences about having raped a woman (his mother? her best friend?) and left her for dead. *Jeremy Kingston* writes. Gazing down upon him from the front row of the audience is an Aussie guy who quietly encourages him to tell all. "How did she look, Danny boy?" Maybe Nick Ward has written a therapy play. Directed it, too.

But when Danny emerges from his bag, it has all been a hallucination brought on by smoking too much grass. He phones his mum and, yes, she is fine. Well, isn't that weird? The tricks the mind plays! But they are nothing compared to the tricks Ward makes his weird Aussies play on the poor, gormless Scot.

Suave, creepily calm Michael, who owns the gallery, brainwashes the lad into going round the suburbs selling views of the outback (imported from Hong Kong) as though they were his own work. Dour, creepily psychotic Becky opens her legs, smacks him on the face, feeds him a cherry, slashes him with a knife. Danny is seriously



Rupert Graves, Marcus D'Amico and Rachel Weisz in *Design for Living*

You recall the plot? Otto catches his best friend Leo and his beloved Gilda in post-coital disarray and storms off in a conventional huff, leaving them to set up house together. Leo reacts the same way when Otto makes a sexual return, only this time it is Gilda who goes, landing up in a dull marriage with a businessman called Ernest. The logical solution to the emotional algebra is a *ménage à trois*: a daring idea for 1933 but one whose details, especially its bisexual details, Coward leaves to the imagination.

Mathias does pretty well all our imagining for us. There is a lot of clambering and crawling on and under tables in underwear. Marcus D'Amico, who now plays Leo, celebrates his initial victory over Rupert Graves, the new Otto,

by energetically humping Rachel Weisz's Gilda against the wall of the grey-brick bunker that weirdly embodies a Left Bank flat. The two men fall into an equally steamy clinch after their girlfriend's departure.

Is the answer, then, a production that somehow combines high erotic voltage with Cowardly decorum? This cast seems fully capable of achieving that balance. Graves is sharp, bright and mercurial; D'Amico blunter, solidier but not less sensual; and Weisz as vivid, voluptuous and effective when it comes to buttering her thighs, as at the Donmar. But that would, I suspect, be too unadventurous a solution for Mathias in full spate.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Pom gets lost in the Bush

alarmed but comes back for more.

The Present
Bush, W12

Her lover turns out to be the girl who stayed with Danny's family back in London and slid into his bed when he was just 14. He is delighted to see her

again but she has gone weird too, loitering without intent up some mental cul de sac. John Lennon has just died, and Michael and Becky torment Danny by playing Lennon



Bremner and Cartledge: the mooncalf manipulated

records when he last expects it. "What's the matter, Danny boy?" He apologises for being upset. He is the most apologetic waif since Ophelia was troubled by the Elsinore nutter.

The play's intention never surfaces. "Don't come to Australia" is one possibility, but maybe we never thought of going in the first place. "Grow up, Pomme," is another. Michael and the women play their unkind games and Danny trots along like a mooncalf trying to keep up with the tigers.

Within the narrow range of sanity, the cast perform ably. Cold, manipulative power-play from the two Svengalis, Christopher Simon and Katrin Cartledge; zombie impoverishment from Susan Vidler. Ewen Bremner is worried and eager as the mooncalf, though the script makes him improbably pliable after one pull of grass, one gulp of red wine.

What really makes the play such an unsatisfactory piece of theatre is the imbalance of will between the conflicting parties: masterful self-possession on one side, sweet-natured submission on the other. Since nothing happens to alter this it is hard to stay interested.

Restoration comedy or tragedy?

Returning an old house to its full glory can be fun, but it can all go sadly wrong. Mary Wilson on how to get it right

Teresa Gorman, MP, has felt the hard edge of the law in relation to planning regulations as Thurrock council takes her and her husband to court for restoring their Grade II listed home. Whether she has made a good job or not of the work is not the point in question. Their mistake was not to ask permission to do the restoration work in the first place.

People thinking about buying listed properties are often wary of doing so because of the cost and rigorous stipulations that have to be followed in their upkeep. The more special the house is, the more the regulations have to be observed.

More than 440,000 buildings in Britain are listed, of which 6,069 are Grade I. They are buildings of exceptional interest. Grade II* relates to important buildings of special interest and Grade II to other buildings of special interest.

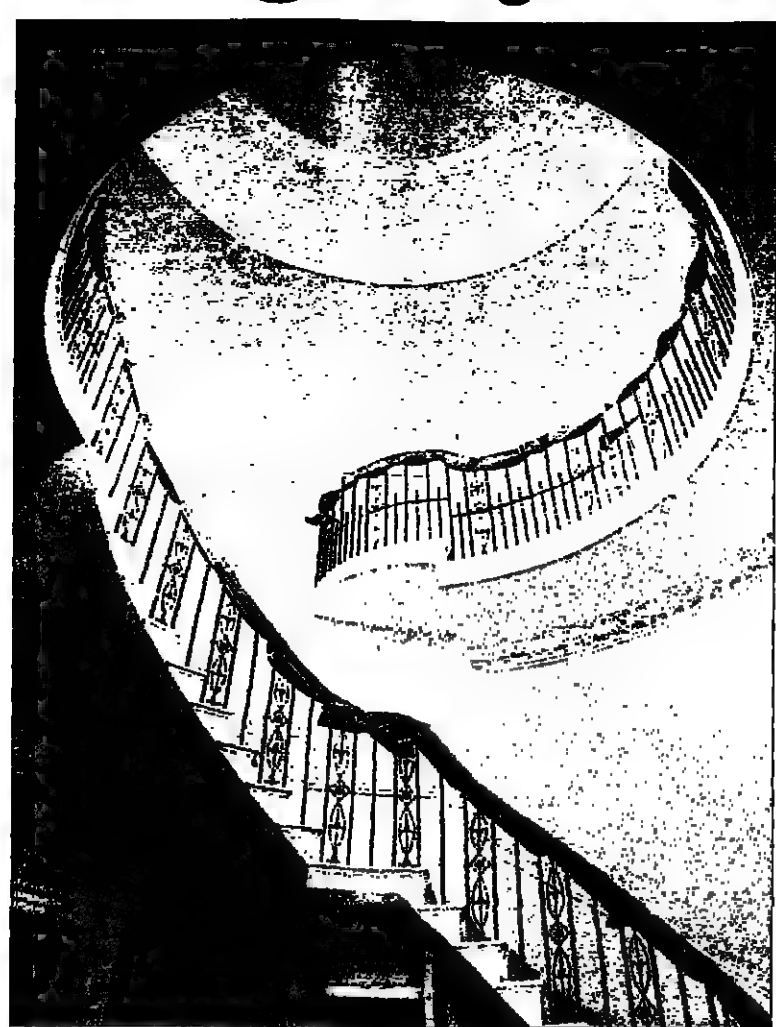
The law states that it is a criminal offence to carry out work involving the demolition of a listed building or its alteration or extension in any manner that would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest, including works to its interior, unless the works are authorised by Listed Building Consent. The penalties are a fine of £2,000 or three months' jail or both.

Owners of Grade I and Grade II* listed property in doubt about what they can or cannot do can seek advice from the Environment Department or English Heritage. If the property is Grade II, they need only contact their local authority. Consent lasts for five years. It is also within a local authority's power to force an owner of a listed building to repair and preserve it.

On the plus side grants are available, although these are not that easy to obtain. There are some VAT concessions, but they often seem anomalous. If the work is an alteration, it is zero-rated; if it is a repair or maintenance, it is not. So adding a swimming pool attracts



The rotunda, left, at Wardour Castle in Tisbury, Wiltshire, designed by James Paine and built in 1770, and the staircase at Clare House in Kent, a Grade I listed Palladian house built in 1793



no VAT on the work, but repairing the roof does.

New owners could also contact the Historic Houses Association. This is a group of 1,300 historic houseowners in Britain concerned with the preservation of privately owned historic houses. William

Proby, its chairman, who owns Elton Hall in Peterborough, considers that many historic houseowners think that owning such a house is, rather than being a privilege, more like enduring a prison term. The association is lobbying in Britain and through the European Union for a reduced rate of VAT for repairing and maintaining listed buildings.

"The great secret," Mr Proby says, "is to try to get the local planning inspector on your side. You do not want to get off on a confrontational start, although it might mean biting your lip." Once

a decision has been made, there is no right of appeal. If the property is listed Grade II* or Grade I, you need both the local planning authority and the inspector from English Heritage on your side.

Mr Proby says: "I am very keen to encourage new owners. If people

'I first saw the building in November 1991. I fell instantly in love with it'

are contemplating buying a listed house, they should contact us right at the outset for advice. Once they are a member, we have a very experienced technical adviser and we run seminars on all sorts of matters pertaining to the restoration of listed houses."

There are many stories of people finding conservation people less than helpful, but Jonathon and Zara Colchester, whose family have owned The New Place, in Ickham, near Canterbury, Kent, since the First World War, were lucky.

The 15th-century Grade II* listed manor house has been carefully restored. Mr Colchester says: "The basic frame was fine, but we had to put in new services and plug a huge hole under one of the principal supports. Luckily, our builders, W.W. Martin in Thanet, had supplies of old oak and old flagstones. The house was

crawling with conservation people, but they were happy because we were going by the book. I built up a good relationship with them, but whether you end up with people who are sympathetic to what you want to do seems down to chance." He hopes to let or sell the five-

bedroom house with 1.8 acres through John D. Wood, which has it on the market for £350,000.

Ron Warren, of Berkeley Homes, Kent, which is restoring the unusual and beautiful Clare House in East Malling, Kent, a Grade I listed Palladian house built in 1793, says: "We are working with English Heritage on the restoration and fine detailing. We intend to restore the building in every detail. Once English Heritage knew that we were involved, along with Wiltshire Construction, which specialises in this sort of thing, we had few problems."

Wardour Castle in Tisbury, Wiltshire, is being restored by Nigel Tursley, an ecologist. The Grade I listed building was designed by James Paine and built in 1770. "I first saw the building in November 1991 and fell instantly in love with it," Mr Tursley says. "I have never

had any problem with English Heritage. We have seen eye to eye on everything."

When one sees the quality of the workmanship and materials Mr Tursley has used it is not surprising that English Heritage is happy with what he is doing. The new

'I have a simple aim: to restore the fabric of the house to its original state'

floors are made of English oak, and sawn in a special way so they have the same grain as the original. He has restored all the cornice work and has even matched the fruitwood door knobs.

When Mr Tursley bought Wardour Castle, he commissioned

English Heritage to do extensive research on the building and he now has most of Paine's original plans and also the plans of the gardens, down to the purchase orders for the plants. "I have a simple, pure principle," he says, "to restore the fabric of the house to the true original state achieved by Paine."

He has turned the top floor into three huge flats, keeping the large door frames throughout and having 2½-inch thick doors made to fit them as they used to be. The flats are being let for £1,600 to £1,800 a month through John

D. Wood's Hampshire lettings department.
● Department of the Environment, Heritage Department, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB; English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2HE; Historic Houses Association, 2 Chester Street, London SW1X 7BB.

After 3,000 years, this is the view

Tumbledown outbuildings dominate this farmstead in an attractive Wiltshire landscape. But what can the owner do?

Huddled below the green ramparts of the Pewsey Downs in Wiltshire, Cannings Cross Farm lies at the heart of a landscape filled with the lingering resonances of ancient settlements. The broad arable fields are scattered with ancient potsherds, and in the low winter sunlight the hillside is dark with the shadows of old tracks and Celtic fortifications.

There has been a farmstead at or near Cannings Cross for at least 3,000 years and it is a matter of sharp local debate that such a venerable place should be dominated by a tumbledown collection of

With a farmhouse and four cottages, Cannings Cross is more a hamlet than a farm, but it does occupy an exposed and elevated position in an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) and any development would need to be aware of the sensitive setting. Mindful of these considerations, Mr Daw said he "talked to the planners and tried to find out what they wanted, but they weren't exactly forthcoming. So we came up with a plan for seven cottage-style houses similar to those already here."

Kennet District Council, the planning authority, rejected this application and the two further plans that followed — a 1991 application for four houses and the present plan to convert courtyard buildings to three large houses.

David Pearce, Mr Daw's planning consultant,

said he was bemused by Kennet's behaviour. "The first and second applications went to appeal and the inspector made no objection to the principle of residential use of these barns, only to the specific proposals," he said. "Now, the local planners have rejected our latest application on policy grounds; ie, that it would have an adverse effect on the landscape. If they knew the application couldn't get around the policy on development in the countryside, they should have advised us long ago."

Having read the inspectors' remarks after the rejection of the two appeals, Mr Pearce thought he knew what the planners would



Tim Daw says: "We haven't the money to repair and maintain buildings we can't use"

accept in the third application. "We discussed every aspect with planning officers. We reduced the proposed dwellings to three to avoid using a modern barn."

"Because the barns already had plenty of openings we did not need to make new apertures for windows, and, in revised plans submitted last November, we eliminated the rooflights to which planners had taken exception."

"This conversion retains the form of traditional agricultural buildings and by removing the ugly modern structures would restore the original courtyard shape."

The local parish council raised

no objection to the application nor did the highway authority. But the response of the Kennet branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England was unequivocal. "This is an isolated and very beautiful position of great archaeological value," Colonel John Wilson, the chairman, said. "We are trying to maintain the local scene and these farm buildings are essential to the integrity of the whole as a working farm."

"This conversion would result in an incongruous and intrusive development of large houses at the exposed foot of the escarpment."

The application was rejected,

much to Mr Daw's disgust. "The first I heard of it was in the local press," he said. "One moment we were talking about details, the next we were faced with another appeal."

"The planners will not let me convert the barns to houses and I cannot use them for the farm. What do they want me to do with them?"

John Lee, Kennet District Council's director of planning, says: "There is a huge market in second-hand materials and it is preferable that these barns should disappear rather than survive as houses."

DAVID LOVIBOND

Internet on line for house sales

Millions of potential buyers around the world could view your home

House sellers can reach probably 10 million people worldwide by having their property advertised on the Internet.

Nationwide Property Selections claims to be the first company in Britain to offer sellers the chance to plug into the Internet at viable rates.

Colour photographs and brief details of properties are entered and can be accessed by the millions of subscribers. Potential buyers can turn to the property file and browse through pictures and brief details of properties. They can draw the information into their computer and print it out in colour in their own home or office.

If they want to know more, they can either use the old-fashioned telephone or e-mail Nationwide's computer system. Then they can be put in touch with the seller.

Nationwide Property Selections, based in Ealing, west London, charges £68.13 to register a property for sale on its British computer matching network. A further £25 secures four weeks' exposure on the Internet, or clients can pay £75 to use the Internet alone for a month.

The service started on January 19 and in the first week 9,000 people accessed the file, prompting inquiries from buyers throughout Europe, Hong Kong

and America. Among the 230 properties on offer were a four-bedroom detached modern family house at Wokingham, Berkshire, priced at £183,950; a £350,000 detached Edwardian house in Bournemouth split into six holiday flats; and a Georgian detached farmhouse and three acres on a river at Kinsale, Co Cork, at £196,000. Other properties abroad are also for sale through the company.

Nationwide Property Selections was formerly called National Selections, which computer-matched vendors with buyers for the flat registration fee. The fee for sellers still covers that service, but buyers register without charge.

Computer-literate vendors can use the Internet direct, but the input cost is very high, and subscriptions for access are between £5 and £10 a month.

Paul Brooks, Nationwide's managing director, said it was too soon to know whether any sales had been achieved through the Internet. "Our job is to put A and B together and hope that a swift sale follows," he said, "but we are not necessarily told if an introduction is successful."

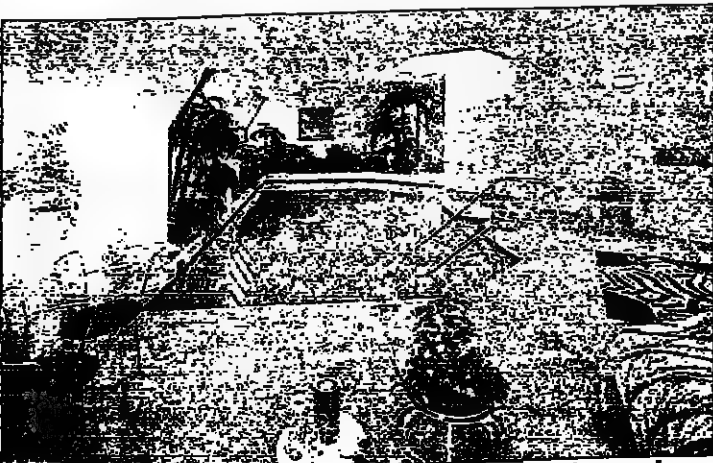
CHRISTINE WEBB

● The company has a freephone 0800 716 116 and fax 0181-566 2044. Its Internet address is <http://www.Vossnet.co.uk>.

Property Details

THURSTON / BURY ST. EDMUNDS. Described Barn Lodge - A Detached THREE-STOREY DETACHED BARN LODGE built on half acre plot. The property is accessed by gravel driveway with bar gates. The front garden mainly laid to lawn with flower & shrub borders with parking area for car parking. The accommodation comprises: Ground floor - ENTRANCE HALL, CLOAKROOM WITH W.C. & HANDS, KITCHEN, LIVING ROOM WITH OPEN FIRE, ACE, DINING ROOM, FULLY FITTED KITCHEN / BREAKFAST AREA, STUDY, JAMES ROOM, REAR HALL, Bath Room - CLOSETTED LANDING, FOUR BEDROOMS (One with five piece suite), FURNISHED FAMILY BATHROOM WITH CORNER BATH, SHOWER, REAR GARDEN SMALL LAWNED AREA WITH TWO PATIO AREAS, FLOWER & SHRUB BORDERS, BARN LOOSELY TRIMMED.

For sale on the Internet: a converted barn in Suffolk



Luxury in Kensington: the tiled indoor swimming pool

Never mind, count the square footage

NUMBER 30A Hyde Park Gate in central London is the ultimate in restrained beauty. Arranged primarily over two upper floors, covering 8,607 sq ft, the contemporary property is an open-plan haven for lovers of art. While wall after white wall awaits the stamp of the owner-to-be, Morag Preston writes. The property's proximity to Kensington Gardens, and the double garage as well as off-street parking, are discreet luxuries. The tiled indoor swimming pool and adjoining self-contained apartment are perhaps a little less subtle.

Commissioned in the late 1970s under the supervision of the architect Isai Yavitz, only the versatile shell of the building has remained intact. Inside walls have been knocked down, bedrooms turned into studies and offices into exercise rooms. Square footage is now more significant than the number of rooms.

The private lift and spiral staircase are still at the core of the Lego-like property. Except for the cream carpets and maple floors, it is both functional and stylish.

The square windows are vast, allowing light to stream in, but the

one-way glass offers privacy. Electronic blinds shut out what is not always a pleasant view of neighbouring flats, and though there is no garden, terracing at the rear overlooks attractive grounds.

The self-contained apartment, with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen, study and sitting room, would make staff accommodation for one.

Easy maintenance and tight security make the property a perfect "Monday to Friday" house. It is priced at £3,950,000, and available through the joint agents Aylesford and Savills.

Ripples of fishing's popularity spread far and wide

There are 3.3 million anglers aged 12 and over in Britain, 2.9 million of them in England and Wales alone. More than one in five ABC1 households has a fisherman in it. English and Welsh freshwater anglers spend an average of more than £1,000 apiece, or £3.3 billion a year in total, on their sport. Twelve per cent of all anglers are women. An awful lot of anglers break the law.

These astonishing figures, which are released today by the National Rivers Authority (NRA), come from the most detailed and credible survey of angling ever published. They show the activity to be almost as much an industry as it is a sport. They contain information of value not only to the NRA but to the angling community as a whole and all those who serve it.

There are insights among them for each of the sport's representa-

tive bodies, whose subscribing memberships look pathetic in the light of what is now unarguably known: for fishery owners and clubs; for a range of service industries and suppliers; for advertisers; for those deciding the shape and powers of the new Environment Agency into which the NRA will eventually be rolled; and for the Government, which funds angling less than any other water sport, though its participants outnumber those in all other water sports combined.

Previous surveys on angling were held in 1970 and 1980 by the same company. However, there was much questioning of the figures which those surveys contained and they cannot safely be used to indicate credible trends because the objectives, criteria and polling techniques used this time have all significantly changed. What is

Brian Clarke studies a survey portraying hordes hooked on a sport that is paying the price for the licence fees allowed to slip from the net

more, detailed figures are supplied only for England and Wales because the NRA's remit does not extend to Scotland.

With those caveats made, this new poll by NOP ends once and for all the wilder speculation in the angling community on its own real strength — and the lay public's perception that angling is a mildly dotty pursuit pursued by the few.

In the two years before the fieldwork last winter and spring, 2,296,000 individuals in England and Wales fished for coarse fish. Over the same period, 843,000 game anglers — that is, anglers who fish for salmon and trout —

visited the water. So did 1,104,000 sea anglers. Around 37 per cent of all anglers were active in more than one branch of the sport. An apparent small decline in the total of all anglers since the 1980 survey may be accounted for by changes in definitions and by an apparent and unexplained decline in interest in sea angling.

While 20 per cent of coarse anglers fished less than half a dozen times a year over the two-year period, 16 per cent fished 200 times or more. The average number of outings in the two years was 87, better than one a week in each nine-month season. A half of

all game anglers fished less than half a dozen times a year, a figure significantly influenced by the low participation in salmon and sea trout angling, itself a figure inevitably influenced by the cost, remoteness and sadly declining quality of most salmon and sea trout waters.

If coarse anglers outnumber and out-fish game anglers, the game anglers spend much more per head — £44.11 an outing against £21.21. Salmon anglers are most likely to subscribe to a fishing club. The survey does not show the average expenditure on salmon fishing alone, or the average cost of each salmon caught, presumably because there were not enough noughts in the computer.

One of the main purposes of the survey was to enable the NRA's fisheries group to understand the size of its potential market-place and the amount of revenue it can

expect to raise through the rod licences which it issues and which every freshwater angler by law should buy. The news is not good. Anything up to 60 per cent of freshwater anglers fish without a licence, 11 per cent admitting the fact, two per cent more suffering a debilitating amnesia when asked.

In its commentary accompanying the survey, many will feel that the NRA is underplaying the loss of revenue which licence evasion at this level represents. Last year, the NRA sold fewer than one million licences: Around two million anglers are clearly investing significantly in the sport.

Many of these will be individuals who could be expected to buy cheap, one-day and eight-day licences. But many will not. If just one in three of the unlicensed anglers were to buy a full £15 permit, the NRA fisheries group

would benefit by a further £5 million, or increase by 40 per cent the funds it is now raising from fishermen.

It is self-evident that every licence not sold means less cash available for fisheries improvement and a higher cost to those anglers already paying their way. While everyone understands the difficulties, the NRA has to become very much better at policing licence evasion.

The visible wearing of a permit, as is widely practised in the United States because of the peer pressure exerted, may be one way forward. A high proportion of those surveyed think it is, though some cultural resistance could be expected.

The National Angling Survey, conducted for the NRA by NOP Social and Political, is available from HMSO, £4.

Lara opts to return for three years at Edgbaston

By IVO TENNANT

WHATEVER everybody else has to say about county cricket and its supposedly declining standards, the finest batsman in the world has not yet had his fill. Brian Lara, who last summer exhausted all stocks of superlatives, will rejoin Warwickshire on a three-year contract commencing in 1996.

Lara cannot play for the county champions this year because he will be touring England with West Indies. His signing of a new contract means that Allan Donald, whom few counties would spurn as an overseas player, will not be able to play for Warwickshire after this summer. It is possible that he will continue his involvement with them as a bowling coach.

Dennis Amis, the Warwickshire chief executive, said that they had considered alter-

account that South Africa and Donald will be involved in a heavy schedule of Test cricket over the coming years. "Allan would have had to leave us two months before the end of the 1997 season," Amis said. "But it was not an easy decision in the sense that Allan has been a great servant of the club." Donald will be particularly valued this season because Munton, the vice-captain and England bowler, will miss the start because of a back operation.

After six months of negotiations, Lara flew to Birmingham from New Zealand, where West Indies are touring, to complete the deal. Not surprisingly, he has taken time "to step back and look at the hectic nature of the English season," as Amis put it, before committing himself.

When Lara returns next year, he will have to make do without the influential coaching of Bob Woolmer, who swiftly concluded that here was a batsman to rank above even Barry Richards. He allowed him a fair amount of leeway. Lara was not always expected to lead the regimented life of an old pro and Woolmer, now looking after South Africa, harboured no doubts about that. A less flexible coach might have been a more pedantic timekeeper, but nobody could have quibbled with the size of Lara's contribution.

Warwickshire, Warwickshire's great Midlands cricket rivals, will not know whether their overseas player, Tom Moody, will be wanted by Australia A, who tour England in July and August, until two weeks before the start of the season. Duncan Fearnley, the club's chairman, has been told that the squad will be announced before Moody is due to return to England.

But, by then, any potential replacement is likely to have finalised his plans for the summer. "I have pointed out to officials in Australia that, if Tom played just one game for us and then was called up by his country, we would be stuffed. It would mean we could not have another overseas player," Fearnley said.

Warwickshire announced yesterday that Tim Currie, their captain, made £129,501 from his benefit last year.

Warwickshire also took into



Curtis watches Corsie on his way to a straight-sets victory yesterday and a place in the quarter-finals

Corsie prospers from fresh impetus

By GORDON ALLAN

RICHARD CORSIE, champion three times since 1989 and runner-up to Andy Thomson last year, reached the quarter-finals of the Churchill Insurance world indoor singles bowls championship when he beat Cameron Curtis, of Australia, 7-5, 7-4, 7-4 at the Guild Hall, Preston, yesterday.

However, Corsie's victory was not as straightforward as the score implies. "Cameron could have won the first set, and even the second," Corsie admitted, but the fact was that the Scottish player's touch was surer, and that, allied to his much greater experience of the portable rink, was enough.

Curtis, 6-0 down in the first set, pulled back to 6-5 before

losing it, and in the third, facing a match lie, he trailed the jack to the back of the rink, but left Corsie plenty of room to draw the winner, which he duly did.

Corsie, having formerly led for Alex Marshall in the pairs, is now playing skip, and finds the change beneficial. "Before, I was drawing for the jack all the time in singles and pairs," he said, "but changing roles from one game to the next is helping to keep me fresh."

Tony Allcock and David Bryant, winners of the pairs title six times, took their place in the semi-finals with a 7-5, 7-6, 7-6 victory over Mark McMahon, of Hong Kong, and Graham Robertson, of Scotland.

Allcock played a number of

fine shots, without which the match would have lasted longer. In the second set, for example, he trailed the jack for a maximum count of four, and later, facing a set lie, drew the set-winning shot.

The World Bowls Players' Association (WBPA), whose membership includes all 16 seeded players at the championships in Preston, announced yesterday that Corsie is its new chairman in succession to David Bryant, who has retired. John Price will be vice-chairman, Gary Smith replaces David McGill as secretary, and Wynne Richards comes in as treasurer.

Corsie said: "The association hopes to be proactive in the development of the game at every level. We welcome the

promises of a world series and would like to offer our members services on and off the green. The prospect of increased commitments makes it more important than ever that the players' voice is heard."

WBPA members are anxious to help the existing governing bodies and to support the work of sponsors. They say they are prepared to undertake public relations work of various kinds, visiting local clubs during leading events and coaching or running clinics if requested.

RESULTS: Singles: Second round: H Duff (Scott) 7-5 W Richards (Eng) 3-7 7-6 4-7 7-3 7-5; R Currie (Scott) 1-6 Cameron Curtis (Aus) 7-5, 7-4, 7-4, 7-4. Quarter-finals: Corsie and A Marshall (Scott) 1-5 P Price and J Price (Wales) 7-5, 7-4, 4-7 5-7 7-4; A Allcock and D Bryant (Eng) 1-6 M McMahon (HK) and G Robertson (Scott) 7-5, 7-6, 7-6.

RFL charges Myers with misconduct

DAVID MYERS, the Bradford Northern and Great Britain under-21 wing, who was one of two Bradford players to refuse to take a drug test after their victory over Hull on Sunday, has also been ordered to appear before the Rugby Football League's disciplinary committee tomorrow to answer charges that he deliberately collided with a referee. The charge follows an incident during Bradford's Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie against Leeds on February 12. "Myers also appeared to deliberately kick a Leeds player," an RFL spokesman said. "The onus is now on Myers to prove that he did not commit either act deliberately."

John Devereux, of Widnes, has been recalled by Wales for the decisive John Smith's European championship match against France in Carcassonne on March 5.

WALSLEY SQUAD: K Skerrett (Wigan), N Cowie (Wigan), M Hall (Wigan), P Williams (Wigan), A Beaman (Warrington), J Davis (Warrington), J Harris (Warrington), D Sutherland (St Helens), J Devereux (Widnes), A Huxley (Widnes), P Ford (Salford), D Young (Salford), R Webster (Salford), R Phillips (Warrington), K Ellis (Warrington), P Moriarty (Hull), M Parnell (Leeds), R Evans (Leeds), M Jones (Leeds).

Berlin rules out bid

OLYMPIC GAMES: The mayor of Berlin yesterday ruled out a bid by the city to host the Olympic Games in 2004 following its failure to win the nomination for the 2000 Olympics. "A fresh bid is not on the agenda," Eberhard Diepgen said in a published regional government report into the failed campaign for the 2000 Games, which were awarded to Sydney.

Walther Troeger, Germany's National Olympic Committee president, said a German bid was unlikely for more than ten years. For that to succeed, he said, Germany must first secure the necessary finances and get the German people behind the bid.

The report said Berlin's bid failed because the government and people were lukewarm; a spate of racist attacks damaged the country's image; and vocal opposition was well-organised. The bid's organising committee, Olympia GmbH, is accused of corruption and wastage in its DM80 million campaign.

Chang opens defence

TENNIS: Michael Chang, the third seed, opened the defence of his Comcast US indoor title by beating Richard Fromberg, of Australia, 6-3, 7-6 in Philadelphia. His opponent, ranked No 42 in the world, had two set points in the second set, but Chang increased the pressure. "I started to return better and get a few more points on his serve," Chang said. "I was controlling the points a bit better and I was more patient. I forced myself to concentrate better." Patrick Rafter, the fifth seed from Australia, recovered to beat Vince Spadea, the world No 59 from Spain, 3-6, 7-6, 6-2. "I was a bit rusty in the beginning," Rafter said.

Davies's plans queried

RUGBY LEAGUE: Peter Higham, the Warrington chairman, intends to speak with Jonathan Davies after reports that the player intends to retire from competition after the World Cup this year to pursue a career in broadcasting. Davies was not prepared to comment yesterday. Higham said: "Jonathan has always discussed developments in his career with us first and I have no reason to think that it will be any different this time." After scoring the winning try in Great Britain's 8-4 triumph over Australia at Wembley last autumn, Davies injured a shoulder. He has struggled for fitness since making his comeback on Boxing Day.

Selectors keep faith

RUGBY UNION: The Welsh Schools senior group selectors have not panicked in the wake of the recent 42-6 defeat by New Zealand, and have kept changes to a minimum for the game against France at Vry Chastillon on Saturday. Gareth Thomas, the hooker, loses his place to Chris Wells, who is fit again, while Gareth Newman comes in at No 8, which allows Richard Field, the captain, to move over to flanker, where he will play instead of Dewi Coates. Coates, who has left hospital, is expected to make a full recovery after breaking a vertebra in his neck.

Monarchs get their man

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Eric Stephens, a cornerback, was the first choice of the London Monarchs on the opening day of the World League of American Football draft in Atlanta on Monday. Tim Barnett, a wide receiver, was first selection of the Scottish Claymores. Seventeen National Football League teams have allocated 37 players to the World League to give them added exposure and match practice. Jerry Vainisi, World League vice-president, said: "We hope this year's group enjoys the World League experience and that their NFL teams benefit as well."

Torpids prospects bleak

ROWING: The first day of the Oxford University Torpids on the Isis today has been cancelled because of the swollen state of the river. With unfavourable weather forecasts there seems little chance of the competition starting, although organisers have planned a further meeting for tomorrow morning. In the unlikely event of conditions improving sufficiently for racing to start later in the week, the competition will be restricted to the top three men's divisions and top two women's divisions.

Randriantefy surprise

TENNIS: Dally Randriantefy, 18, who reached the third round of the Australian Open before going out to the eventual winner, Mary Pierce, of France, was unexpectedly beaten in the first round of the Women's Challenger tournament in Newcastle yesterday. Randriantefy, of Madagascar — regarded by many as a prodigy — is among the entries for the Texaco Challenge in Southampton next week. Shiri-Ann Siddall, the British No 2, is the only home player to receive direct entry into the main draw.

If uncertainty be the food of sport, play on

What happens next? This is the central, in some ways the only, question of sport. I remember the racehorse trainer, John Dunlop, saying to me as we stood, one February morning, surrounded by 60 or 70 unraced two-year-olds, how he loved, above all, this time of the year.

"Any one of them could turn out to be the greatest racehorse that ever set foot on a track," he said. "Any single one. They almost certainly won't be. But no one can say that they can't."

Jenny Pitman, National Hunt trainer, called her book *A Glorious Uncertainty*. Nor is it just racing, but all sport. The most certain of champions falls victim to folly, self-doubt, injury; the most obvious non-hoper is filled with a mad self-certainty.

Even the Boat Race, that most predictable and professional sporting event of the calendar, can throw up freak results, as in the famous mudsling year. Unpredictability is the stuff of sport.

That is why, in the days when recorded highlights dominated football, people ran ear-cupping and screaming from the room when the results came up. Watching sport when you know the result is like drinking alcohol-free lager.

When the whistle blows, the umpire says "play", the gun sounds, the hooter goes off or the bell rings, we toboggan pell-mell into the valley of the unknown. Therein lies sports addictiveness.

The past sporting weekend was a catalogue of unpredictability. Who could possibly have predicted, for example, that the long and bitterly awaited FA Cup-tie between Manchester United and Leeds United would have been settled after four minutes of play? Leeds conceded two goals and the match as the stragglers were still taking their seats.

Newcastle United won their own tie on another unpredictable oddity. The Manchester City goalkeeper, Andy Dibble, made a clownish error on a

MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES

routine clearance and the Magpies were away. The FA Cup has been a largely predictable competition thus far this year: such moments restore your faith in sporting unpredictability.

Then there was the curious incident of Linford Christie's indoor world record at 200 metres. Nobody suspected that this was on the cards, or even possible. Christie came in as a last-minute replacement and then improved his personal

best by the canyon-wide margin of 0.3 seconds.

You want more? Alberto Tomba, the Italian skier, has won ten successive World Cup slalom titles this season. But, at the weekend, he missed a gate and was gone.

Perhaps you missed the Aleksandr Popov story? The Olympic swimming champion, favourite for his event at the World Cup event in Germany, crazily lost his balance at the start. He wobbled, false-started, and was disqualified, handing the race to Mark Foster, of Britain.

More? Steve Davis, the impeccable elder brother of world snooker, was beaten in a Davis-style attritional final by a teenager called John Higgins. In Scotland, Aberdeen beat Rangers, surprise enough a week ago. But, at the weekend, they were themselves beaten by Stenhousemuir in the season's biggest upset. Meanwhile, the Scottish rugby team won in France for the first time since 1969. The weekend was a gour-

mand's feast of unpredictability. The uncertain stuff of sport was piled high on our plates, course after course. Every time we thought that the meal was done, the waiter appeared again, staggering under his load, to lift the cover with a flourish from another steaming plate of sporting stuff.

At last the final savoury arrived. The name of this angel on horseback was Salim Malik, of Pakistan, who became the first cricket captain in history to win a three-Test series away from home after losing the first game. Amazing. But what? Do I hear some clucking at the table? Is the dish too spicy? Burnt? What is wrong?

Pakistan cricket is reeling under the allegations of match-fixing, bribery and betting. Salim is among the shoal of players accused. The latest accusation concerns a one-dayer between England and Pakistan in 1992. This was a close and bitterly fought summer, the Test series ultimately won by Pakistan. But, at Trent

Enforced break gives Dunwoody fresh perspective on his career

Head boy returns to hard school

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

AS ANY schoolboy will tell you, holidays can seriously scramble the emotions. On the outside, everything was back in order at Warwick racecourse yesterday. The sun shone through a bitter wind, the going was on the soft side of soggy, punters cheered and groaned, bookmakers counted their money and the head boy, Dunwoody, returned to the winner's enclosure after a 30-day break in the middle of term time.

It was as if Richard Dunwoody had never been away. Except that the Richard Dunwoody who coaxed Allegation home in the Regency Hurdle for Martin Pipe might not be the same man who left the tight-knit community of National Hunt racing a month ago for an enforced



Dunwoody coaxes Allegation over the last on his way to making a winning return at Warwick yesterday after his 30-day suspension

LEADING JOCKEYS

Adrian Maguire	114
Richard Dunwoody	113
Norman Williams	79
Janie Osborne	74
Peter Niven	60
David Brogwater	56
Warren Marston	49
Mark Dwyer	47
Tony Dobbin	46

view through the other end of the telescope.

Much has happened to Dunwoody in the interim. Things which put the matter of how many winners he has given up, how much money he has lost in rides and winnings, how much closer Adrian Maguire has inched in the all-consuming race for the jockeys' title (the close stands at Maguire 114-Dunwoody 113), all the little-tattle and the nonsense which makes National Hunt racing such a unique and exclusive world, into telling perspective.

One message on the answerphone began the process of reflection. It was from Barry Kelly, a trainer and an old friend from way back, and it was inviting Dunwoody to his wedding. "He said now I had a holiday I could come after all," Dunwoody recalled yesterday in the cramped lobby of the weighing room at Warwick.

The words must have hit Dunwoody like a jackhammer. He had not been home for a few days because he had to attend a funeral in Ireland, the funeral of Barry Kelly, who had been killed in a car crash with his fiancée just a few days before their wedding. "Something like that makes you realise that you're only here for a short time, so you may as well enjoy it. It was as much of a lesson as anything. I have had a great career and

enjoyed some great moments, but that was a reminder that you can get so wrapped in your own little world, have such tunnel vision, that you don't realise what's going on anywhere else."

To escape from the vortex, to find a better perspective, Dunwoody went skiing twice and took up an invitation to ride out for the Makoums' winter stable in Dubai. He entered other worlds, showjumping with Nick Skel-

ton, talked long and hard to David Coulthard, who just a few miles to the south was unveiling the new Williams formula one car and basked in his freedom, sparing no thought for his colleagues slogging through the mid-winter mud. He did not watch a day's racing. "What's the point? You can't do anything about it."

"I really enjoyed getting away from it all, meeting people in other areas of life,

having the time to discuss mutual interests, finding out whether the pressure is the same. I can look you in the eye and say I wouldn't have missed that time off for the anything." Not even for the thrill of 20 more winners? "I got my thrills in other ways." And he did look me in the eye and meant every word, even though he had just remembered, through an eight-length victory, why it was he enjoyed riding so much and just

reminded everyone else how ridiculously easy he makes his job look.

Not that he is about to step down from his kingdom. "I'll be as committed to riding winners as ever. I'm certainly not going to hand it to Adrian [Maguire]."

It is just that the days of rushing round the country for the sake of just one more winner, the hours of masochism spent sweating in the sauna to shed that one last

pound, might be over. Dunwoody's weight, always the problem for a tall man, has risen to just under 11 stone and the battle to get down to ten stone again, he feels, is just worth fighting anymore.

"What's the sense in spending three hours in the sauna? It's not good for you, mentally or physically. I don't see the point." He thought a compromise of 10st 6lb would be sensible. "I might even get lower than that, but I'm not going to ruin myself."

Luke Harvey, whose venture up the inside of the champion led to the 30-day ban, will need some convincing of Dunwoody's changing priorities. He would be advised not to test them. Dunwoody himself acknowledged he might be caught up in the spiral once more. But you sense it would be against his better judgement.

"Ask me again in a month when Cheltenham and Aintree are round the corner. I might be the same as ever. But the last few weeks have opened my eyes to another way of life."

Club approves new penalty structure

A NEW penalty structure designed to rid racing of non-triers by introducing bans for riders was granted final approval by the Jockey Club yesterday.

To be introduced on March 2, it will provide local stewards with more power to deal with offences committed on the racecourse. As a result, jockeys will risk bans of up to two weeks for offences that previously incurred fines.

For the first time horses involved in any attempt to deceive the handicapper or set up a future coup can be suspended for 30 days. The guilty rider will also be banned and the trainer fined.

Jockey Club stewards authorised the recommendations of its disciplinary committee, first published a month ago and which attempt to ensure the punishment fits the offence, after discussions with the sport's associations.

Announcing the structure, a Jockey Club spokesman said: "The stewards decided that replacing fines with periods of suspension was a fair and more effective deterrent, and that the new penalties would have a positive impact on the problem of non-triers."

"They have therefore decided that from March 2, stewards of meetings will

be given the power to impose suspensions on riders, suspend horses from running and increase the penalties for trainers for breaches of Rule 151.

"Local stewards will also have the power to impose suspensions on riders for misjudgment, mistaking the distance of the race, taking the wrong course or failing to weigh in."

Most concerned by the proposals was the Jockeys' Association, which claimed its members were being "singled out" and argued that by not introducing suspensions for trainers, riders would carry the can for breaches of rule 151.

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER

1.40 Whitebarnet, 2.10 Cobb Gate, 2.40 Mister Oddy, 3.10 Minister's Medals, 3.40 Cool Dawn, 4.10 CRABBY BILL (nap), 4.40 River Bourny.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.40 RIVER BOURNY.

Brian Beal: 3.40 Cool Dawn, 4.40 River Bourny.

GOING: SOFT, HEAVY IN PLACES (CHASE COURSE); HEAVY (HURDLES)

1.40 HYTHYNOVICS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,194; 2m 11 1/2yds) (10 runners)

1-1P	MANTHARTON 114 (B.S.) R. Phillips 5-12-0	J. Rafter	60
2-1P	WINTERBURN 14 (B.S.) C. Spence 5-11-0	J. Rafter	60
3-1P	SPRING REUSE 20 (B.S.) M. Roberts 5-11-0	M. Roberts	60
4-1P	QUICKIE 10 (B.S.) R. Phillips 5-11-0	R. Phillips	60
5-1P	SULLY 34 (B.S.) R. Phillips 5-11-0	R. Phillips	60
6-1P	ROCKY 10 (B.S.) R. Phillips 5-11-0	R. Phillips	60
7-1P	ROCKY 10 (B.S.) R. Phillips 5-11-0	R. Phillips	60
8-1P	ROCKY 10 (B.S.) R. Phillips 5-11-0	R. Phillips	60
9-1P	ROCKY 10 (B.S.) R. Phillips 5-11-0	R. Phillips	60
10-1P	ROCKY 10 (B.S.) R. Phillips 5-11-0	R. Phillips	60

2.10 STANFORD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,656; 2m 11 1/2yds) (12)

1-1P	DERBY 10 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	D. O'Sullivan	50
2-1P	STANFORD 10 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	D. O'Sullivan	50
3-1P	STANFORD 10 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	D. O'Sullivan	50
4-1P	STANFORD 10 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	D. O'Sullivan	50
5-1P	STANFORD 10 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	D. O'Sullivan	50
6-1P	STANFORD 10 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	D. O'Sullivan	50
7-1P	STANFORD 10 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	D. O'Sullivan	50
8-1P	STANFORD 10 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	D. O'Sullivan	50
9-1P	STANFORD 10 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	D. O'Sullivan	50
10-1P	STANFORD 10 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	D. O'Sullivan	50

2.40 GAY RECORD CHALLENGE TROPHY

(Handicap chase; £2,587; 2m) (6)

1-1P	MISTER ODDY 6 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	T. Jinks	50
2-1P	CHERRY 10 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	T. Jinks	50
3-1P	COURT RAPER 5 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	T. Jinks	50
4-1P	CHERRY 10 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	T. Jinks	50
5-1P	CHERRY 10 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	T. Jinks	50
6-1P	CHERRY 10 (B.S.) J. Rafter 7-11-0	T. Jinks	50

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Slices of raw life in the Yardie homeland

The scene has a familiar ring, but it is subtly new. "This is the house my father built," says a Jamaican youth called Peter, surveying an unroofed dwelling with pride. You expect him to expand on what a good man his father was — and that's exactly what he does. "He used to hide his drugs just here," he says. "I remember when I was small I hid down there." Ah, the innocence of childhood memories. Peter lifts a sheet of corrugated iron to reveal a hole in the floor. His father was very smart as a drugs dealer, apparently, but not so smart about women. One of his girlfriends set him up to be killed. (Bang went Peter's inheritance.)

Peter's patois was so dense it had to be translated into sub-titles, but everything else in last night's fascinating *Network First: Yardies* (ITV) was perfectly clear. After a few opening shots of "Yardie" killings in Britain, the rest of the film was a privileged

cloupeau of the rawest ghetto life of Kingston — and if Clive James never sends a postcard from here, you can't blame him, because he had access to funerals (he makes videos of the flowery services, the waiting of teenage molls, the shovelling of the bright red earth). But Peter had direct experience of the violence, too: having recently thrown acid at an axeman, his left arm was a tangle of pink flesh.

His pretty sister Rosie meanwhile mentioned the everyday risk of being "raped and dumped" in the same way we might talk about all the buses coming along at once.

The director, Kimi Zabihyan, had done a remarkable job, gaining access to the police round-up squad as well as the ghetto. Raiding a dance hall, the police arrested several boys who claimed they'd been present for a talent contest. This was an easy story to

check: the chief ordered them to perform their rap acts here and now (pleasant to see medieval justice still flourishing), and the good ones were released. But the dangers were never far away: Peter's friend Lloyd was first discovered on a building site, wearing a hard hat with an improvised veil obscuring his face. There had been a mix-up: a woman had dumped a bucket of acid over Lloyd, in a case of "mistaken identity". It was certainly a case of mistaken identity now.

When Lloyd took off the hat to be interviewed, his face was a howling blur by Francis Bacon in pink and brown.

It is quite rare to see presenters sweating through their shirts. A wardrobe mistress usually waits near by, surely, with a rail of fresh laundry and an industrial hairdryer. But Clive James, in last night's *Postcard from Bombay*



Lynne Truss

(BBC1) heartily eschewed such namby-pamby treatment, and the patterns of damp on his torso became so watchable that they formed a parallel narrative of their own. Is it hot in Bombay, then? Is it humid? Watching Clive James suffer so badly was not pleasant (at one point, his face appeared to be shrinking as it dripped). Feeling helpless to do anything else, I gamely turned up the thermostat.

The "postcard" format is pretty superficial, as the name suggests. Clive Anderson's new strand on Fridays (*Our Man in...* BBC2) has an investigative angle, with Anderson interviewing officials and hooliers, exposing their lies. James interviews glamorous, rich women, with whom he flirts, and his best moments are out on the street, sweating, hailing broken-down taxis ("An oven would have been faster"), and having his watch stolen by a jostling gang of children.

There was nothing he said about Bombay poverty that has not been said before. But you watch Clive James for the one liners, not the fiscal analysis. "The groom arrived looking stunned. Many Indian marriages are arranged. He looked as if he had been arranged under anaesthetic." A new comic departure last night was a slapstick episode at a Bollywood

studio, where James volunteered as a sword-fighting extra, dressed as a chocolate soldier with moustache, crossack boots and a pointy hat. After a few brief, hilarious rehearsals of cut and thrust, he was filmed receiving a fatal stab under his armpit, assuming an expression of extreme comic bewilderment, and then falling on his back in the dust. It was possibly the funniest thing he has ever done on television.

Clashing with Clive James on BBC2 (how they must have cheered when they got that slot) was a new series, *The Labours of Eve*. Oh no, I thought. Not another programme about women going to any lengths to acquire a baby? Last night's first film concerned a woman called Joan whose two sons had been killed in a hit-and-run at the age of nine and four. Within three months of this devastating event,

in which she was injured badly herself, she decided to start another family, despite rather serious obstacles — her husband's vasectomy, her broken pelvis, and her inability at the age of 43 to produce viable eggs. Would she be dissuaded? No she wouldn't. And by the end of the programme at least you understood why the only purpose of her life was to make new babies. The presenter, Nicky Singer, asked whether she had considered adoption. "Oh yes," said Joan, "but I was too old." So she had a donor egg (twice), an implantation (twice), and finally a Caesarean section. All this endurance cost her £8,000 and the result was twins. Joan and her husband were happy again at last. Four spare embryos are stored in a frozen chum, in case she ever needs them. She said she would do it all again, if she had to. Other people's lives, eh? Other people's lives.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (70938)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (62456396)
- 9.05 Soot Kats (r) (4765174) 9.30 White Fang (r) (887235) 9.55 Christopher Crocodile (r) (2008174)
- 10.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (7977396) 10.05 EastEnders — The Early Days. As part of the programme's tenth anniversary celebrations, a return to the start of the series (r) (CeeFax) (s) (2905067)
- 10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday family magazine (s) (4159822)
- 12.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (1522822) 12.05pm *Patrol Road* introduced by Ross King (r) (208464) 12.55 Regional news and weather (75160754)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (CeeFax) and weather (28290)
- 1.30 Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (1982229) 1.55 Champion Telly Addicts (r) (s) (9470939)
- 2.25 Alias Smith and Jones. Vintage western series starring Ben Murphy and Pete Dink (r) (2348358)
- 3.15 Glynn Christian's Entertaining Miscellany. American dishes (s) (8716396) 3.30 Brilliant Gardens. Rula Linska visits Westons (8331938)
- 3.40 Sick as a Parrot introduced by Simon Davies (8311174) 3.55 Jackanory. A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula Le Guin (r) (8334025) 4.10 Potsworth and Co (r) (3080303) 4.35 The Really Wild Show. Wildlife magazine (CeeFax) (s) (5471261)
- 5.00 Newsround (3932716) 5.05 The Bix. The lives and loves of the pupils at the Markov School of Dance and Drama (CeeFax) (s) (7615785)
- 5.35 Neighbours (r) (CeeFax) (s) (242174)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (CeeFax) and weather (261)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (613)
- 7.00 This Is Your Life (CeeFax) (s) (3822)
- 7.30 Here and Now. Current affairs (875)
- 8.00 How Do They Do That? Desmond Lynam and Jenny Hull with more stories of human ingenuity (CeeFax) (s) (582822)
- 8.45 Points of View (CeeFax) (s) (351377)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (9087)



Michael Elphick with Harry Satter (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Harry (CeeFax) (s) (71398)
- 10.20 Sportsnight. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights of the match between Norwich and Manchester United at Carrow Road, plus a report on British middleweight boxer Woodhall's fight against Italian Silvio Branco and Bill Hardy's defence of his featherweight title against Ghana's Percy Cormey (s) (1229822)
- 11.45 The Stand Up Show. Barry Cryer introduces stand up comics (s) (3826251)
- 12.15am FILM: *Crossing the Mob* (1988) starring Jason Bateman and Frank Stallone. A drama about a young man who accepts a job from a Mafia boss but then tries to go straight when he unexpectedly becomes a father. Directed by Steven Hilliard Stern. (3888977) 1.50 Weather (5658781)

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Anglia News (2820342) 12.00pm-12.30 Anglia News (1850008) 1.55pm-2.00 Anglia News (2820342) 2.20 Gardening Time (8174358) 2.55-3.00 Blockbusters (8575988) 3.55-4.00 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5254764) 6.30-7.00 Anglia News (1850008) 7.00-7.30 Anglia News (1850008) 7.30-8.00 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 8.00-8.30 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 8.30-9.00 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 9.00-9.30 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 9.30-10.00 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 10.00-10.30 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 10.30-11.00 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 11.00-11.30 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 11.30-12.00 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 12.00-12.30 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 12.30-1.00 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 1.00-1.30 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 1.30-2.00 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 2.00-2.30 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 2.30-3.00 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 3.00-3.30 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 3.30-4.00 The Big Breakfast (7220193) 4.00-4.30 The Big 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Manager dismissed in wake of Premier League inquiry into transfer irregularities

Arsenal make
Graham pay
ultimate price

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE GRAHAM, who brought to Arsenal football club more silverware than any manager since Herbert Chapman in the 1930s, was dismissed in ignominy yesterday: a man who survived his pragmatic, winner-takes-all ethic until it is alleged, he took a little too much. Besides, his team had actually started losing.

When the announcement came from Highbury's marble halls at 1.10pm yesterday, it may have been mere coincidence that the heavens over North London opened. A 111-word statement said that Graham's contract had been terminated after 8½ successful years after "the FA Premier League inquiry into alleged irregularities concerning certain transfers... the board concluded that Mr Graham did not act in the best interests of the club".

There was, at once, another storm brewing. It reached many parts of the country, many clubs where there are managers who, according to rumour and rancour, have been just as invidious as Graham in accepting monies in connection with the transfer of footballers from one club to another.

There was also some poppycock spouted. Arsenal, it was said, had dismissed Graham because the club upholds standards that others only aspire to. What nonsense. This affair had not simply arisen in newspapers, shortly before Christmas, but had been exposed in a book, *The Men Behind Brondby*, by Henrik Madsen, in November 1993. Subsequently, Graham is alleged to have paid back the £285,000 "unsolicited gift" he received from the Norwegian agent, Rune Hauge, at the time of the transfer to Arsenal from Brondby of John Jensen. Peter Hill-Wood, the Old

Etsonian chairman at Highbury, reiterated yesterday that his club had met Rick Parry, the chief executive of the Premier League, last Friday, and had reached the unanimous decision to terminate Graham's contract. The termination, it is said, comes with no compensation for the unserved portion of his deal, which had more than two years to run at some £250,000 per year.

Hill-Wood admitted that the timing of the dismissal was "inconvenient". He said:

Graham calls
for inquiry

George Graham said last night he would "vigorously contest" his dismissal by Arsenal. In a statement issued through his solicitors, he accused the club of making a "kangaroo court judgment", dismissed the allegations of transfer irregularities as "nonsense" and called "for a full and open inquiry by the Football Association". "My record of loyalty and service demanded better treatment," he added.

"There is no convenient time to lose a manager who's been so successful." Successful indeed. Though many people have shuddered at the manner in which Graham's teams "closed down" the opposition, though the trophies were ground out of toil and labour, they came at a prodigious rate: two league championships, three other domestic trophies and the Cup Winners' Cup, which Arsenal seek to defend against the French team, Auxerre, next month.

There are so many memories of Graham on top. In May 1989, he stood on the centre

circle at Anfield, embracing his son and his daughter, while his team cavorted in front of the Kop, having won the championship in the hardest way imaginable, by beating Liverpool 2-0 in their own citadel.

And then, less than a year ago, there was Graham at Stansted airport at 3am. The Arsenal team had landed, bringing home the Cup Winners' Cup. There were bleary eyes, rambling voices, and there was Graham — pristine, hugging the trophy and the limelight. "Winning the Cup Winners' Cup, against teams that were much better in technical quality, is outstanding," he said. "Ask yourself why."

The reason shone like the trophy: it was the tactical nous of the man who had risen from poverty, from being the youngest of six in a Scottish upbringing made so hard by the death of his father when Graham was barely three years old.

As a footballer, the "Stroller", he had graced the midfield of the otherwise equally pragmatic Arsenal double team of 1970-71. He admitted, many years and many successes later, that Graham the player would not have got into Graham the manager's team. But he could baffle himself with arrogance, with his fixed smile in adversity. One moment that clings to the image of this Scot was Graham claiming he had not read the criticism, but that what was written was wrong.

So, pragmatic, utterly combative, suave on the surface... what could have induced Graham to commit, if he did, the ultimate crime against his club and the supporters, of banking money that should have been helping to make the team, the club, an even better entity?

The suggestion that will not go away is that many, if not everyone, are doing it. Even the Premier League inquiry, whose intermittent bulletins simply play down the spread and the scope of so-called bungs, recently suggested that the game was clean "since 1992". That, of course, was the time Jensen became an Arsenal player, and the agent, Hauge, who is under investigation for tax fraud in Norway, has just been awarded bona fide status, one of ten men whom the sports authorities approve.

"George has been unlucky," Tommy Docherty, that old rascal who was the manager when Graham played at both Chelsea and Manchester United, says.

He, now retired from active service in the game, was on Sky Television within an hour of the sacking. "It is well known," Docherty asserted, "that there are managers in the game who have taken hundreds of thousands of pounds. It's got to be greed.



Graham takes exercise yesterday morning before the announcement of his dismissal as Arsenal manager

there is no other word for it. If they're guilty, get them out of the game with a life ban."

The question of a ban, of any official action beyond Highbury's door, was being dismissed last night. Hill-Wood said: "I have been in touch with Rick Parry two or

three times today, and I think he is happy with the action we have taken. There is no evidence to suggest that the Premier League will take any further action."

No further action: is Graham to be the scapegoat for habits that have polluted the

national sport? That has become as much a legal as an ethical question. The Premier League has found its inquiry absolutely bedevilled with lawyers, and it was seen earlier this season how emphatically Tottenham Hotspur employed men of the bar to knock the stuffing out of the intentions of the Football Association.

What of Graham? His future may lie abroad. The man whose hands have touched more trophies, as player and manager, than any other in the club's history, will probably never now be cast in bronze alongside the bust of Herbert Chapman in the marble halls. He forfeited that somewhere between Highbury and Scandinavia.

Cantona charged, page 1

GEORGE GRAHAM FACTFILE

1944: Born Bargeddie, Scotland, Nov 30.
1962: Signs for Aston Villa.
1964: Transferred to Chelsea for £5,000.
1965: League Cup winner after victory over Leicester City.
1968: Joins Arsenal for £50,000, collecting FA Cup runners-up medals in 1968 and 1969.
1970: Helps Arsenal to win FA Cup.
1971: Key member of Arsenal's double-winning side.
1972: Joins Manchester United after collecting FA Cup runners-up medal and first of 12 Scotland caps.
1974: Transferred to Portsmouth.
1976: Moves to Crystal Palace, who earn promotion to second division.

1977: Retires from playing and takes coaching job with Queens Park Rangers. Moves to Crystal Palace as coach.
1982: Joins Millwall as manager.
1983: Millwall promoted from third division.
1989: Becomes Arsenal manager in May and wins Littlewoods Cup in first season.
1990: Leads Arsenal to first league title for 18 years thanks to dramatic goal by Michael Thomas in their final match, against Liverpool at Anfield.
1991: Arsenal win championship.
1992: Arsenal complete FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup double.
1994: Arsenal beat Parma to win Cup Winners' Cup.

Hill revs up his mean machine

Simon Barnes finds optimism overflowing as Williams accelerate towards a new campaign

The new car is quick, astonishingly quick, the engine consummately reliable and the drivers love each other. Yes, the new Formula One season is only weeks away and the Williams team yesterday launched their new car upon the world.

Yes, and the next will be the most competitive Formula One season in history, far more a test of drivers and less a test of machinery than ever before. The annual optimism rode pig-back across the Didcot skies.

Last season at Williams brought the death of Ayrton Senna, and, through the troubles and traumas, a second place in the world drivers' championship for Damon Hill. It also brought Hill, now 34, a new team-mate ten years his junior, David Coulthard, hungry and pugnacious, lined up beside Hill yesterday to unveil a lean and high-nosed car. They stood side by side, grinning uneasily in the lights of a thousand cameras.

Last year, the two of them were caught up in a row about who gives way to whom. "I don't think there is any problem between us," Coulthard said yesterday. "There are no team orders at the start of the season." Precedence is a matter for late summer and autumn, when one driver or another might be fighting for the world championship that eluded Hill by a single point last season.

A strange season indeed. Hill is, unusually in Formula One, a man lacking in visible signs of ruthlessness. Time and again the buzz went round the bizarre, globe-wandering and rumour-mongering village of Formula One that Hill was "too nice" — meaning too soft — to be a champion.

He went at least halfway to proving them all wrong in his extraordinary win in the rain

It ended with, for a fraction of a second, the world championship in his grasp. But then his rival for the title, Michael Schumacher, cannoned into him and drove him off the track and had the title for himself. A hell of a year.

"The new season will be more competitive," Hill said. "New regulations limiting engine size and down-force are designed to increase both safety and parity of competition."

Meanwhile, the rumour mill grinds on: this car is frighteningly quick, that one quicker, this team is concealing its hand and is much quicker (or slower) than it is made out to be. Hill smiled benignly at the media scrum.

On the pavement outside the Williams factory in fading white paint someone has written: "Senna you will always be remembered." Yes indeed. I hope no more inscriptions will be required this year, in Didcot or anywhere else in Formula One's global village.

Houston's
association
may count
against
promotion

By ROB HUGHES

THE question of the succession to George Graham as manager of Arsenal became an inevitable roulette wheel of intrigue and speculation last night. The bookmakers were offering odds on 33 assorted names — although Uncle Tom Cobley was strangely omitted — before Arsenal's FA Carling Premiership game against Nottingham Forest.

But Peter Hill-Wood, the club chairman, was, of necessity, discussing but a single candidate. "I spoke to Stewart Houston on the phone, and asked him to take charge tonight," Hill-Wood said, referring to the man who has been Graham's assistant for the past five years. "I'll be speaking to him tomorrow about the longer term. He is a very possible candidate. I'm sure the players have faith in Stewart."

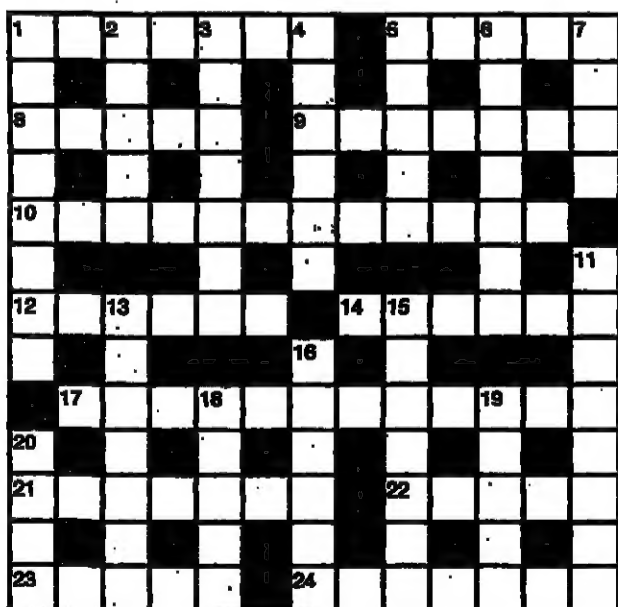
Possibly they do, but possibly some of the supporters who have lately shown their wrath at the lack of style in the team, might object to a mere continuation of a management connection that has inspired such a paucity of inventive midfield play.

Unless Arsenal choose to maintain the present situation until the end of the season, the likely rivals to Houston include Pat Rice, the youth team coach at Highbury, Liam Brady, David O'Leary and Tony Woodcock, all former Arsenal players: the last was until recently manager of FC Leipzig.

Further down the bookmakers' list, but intriguing nevertheless, are the names of Steve Coppell, David Platt, Joe Kinnear and Bruce Rioch. Coppell would certainly get the job if Machiavelli were still alive. For Coppell had been a member of the three-man Premier League commission that sat in judgment on Graham; moreover, Coppell had judiciously said to the press that it was not so much a question of whether Graham took the money, but of why. Shortly afterwards, Coppell declared himself keen to manage a football club again. Time will tell how prescient that decision really was.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 402



ACROSS

- 1 Hesitation about rightness of action (7)
- 5 Bird; cower (5)
- 8 Thin biscuit (5)
- 9 Travesty (7)
- 10 Too hard to understand (4,4)
- 12 Swallow up (6)
- 14 Trite expression (6)
- 17 Gesture of crowd's impatience (4,8)
- 21 N Atlantic island republic (7)
- 22 Stupid pupil (5)
- 23 Useful; dextrous (5)
- 24 Acidity (7)

DOWN

- 1 Surgeon (joc.) (8)
- 2 Plunder; weapon (5)
- 3 Partially cook (7)
- 4 Break (limit) (6)
- 5 Overturn (judgement) (5)
- 6 Palestine language in NT times (7)
- 7 Vegetable, cylindrical white bulb (4)
- 11 Without defence (8)
- 13 Old Spanish warship (7)
- 15 March 25th (4,3)
- 16 Frank, open (6)
- 18 Tired (5)
- 19 Sudden forward thrust (5)
- 20 Essential part; fruit tissue (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 401

ACROSS: 1 Jackal 4 Jagged 8 Jure 9 Vignette 10 By-product 13 Apply 15 Trust 16 Watch 18 Expedient 21 Rhetoric 22 Rout 23 Scruff 24 Lurch

DOWN: 1 Jujube 2 Catapult 3 Livid 5 Annotated 6 Gate 7 Dreary 11 On the hoof 12 Usurp 14 Pope Joan 16 Walrus 17 Stitch 19 Excel 20 Lear

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